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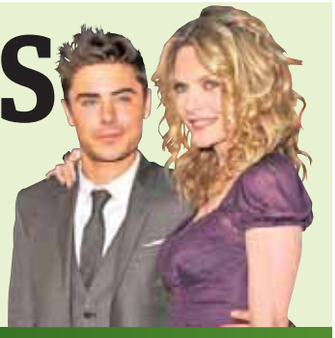
THE KISS
A MILESTONE FOR EFRON AND PFEIFFER {page 20}



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De-occupy or face arrest: Judge

Occupy members plan to go to court this morning to verify documents **Tents must be removed by Friday 2 p.m.**

KATIE TURNER
@METRONEWS.CA

Occupy Calgary has been dealt a final blow following a judge's order for them to vacate the park or be arrested.

Following a court appearance last Friday, Chief Justice Neil Wittman ruled yesterday in favour of the City of Calgary, stating bylaw officers are authorized to remove tents, structures and other belongings.

"What I hope will happen is that we'll see peaceful, respectful compliance with the judge's orders," said Bill Bruce, director of animal and bylaw services.

"People can be there until 11 o'clock at night, but once the park closes, you must leave."

Acting as a legal advisor for the Occupy Calgary group, Ben Christensen said until they see an original copy of the document from the court, they are skeptical of its validity.

"Until we can verify the authenticity of the documents before us ... we have no reason to believe the City of Calgary is providing a proper order from Justice Whitman," he said.

Ald. Diane Colley-Urquhart, a vocal critic of the movement, said yesterday the judge's order was a relief.

"I would say that it's probably two months overdue," she said. "We let this go on for far too long and there are a lot of lessons for us to learn through this."

Homecoming. Tim's time

▶ Lisa Frye, a civilian member of the Canadian Forces personnel support programs division who worked at the Tim Hortons in Kandahar for four months and arrived back in Edmonton yesterday, holds one of the two final boxes of Timbits made at that location. Story, page 14.

HEATHER MCINTYRE/METRO

Last Timbits come home from Kandahar

Crime

Curbing gang violence

Provincial strategy aims to prevent youth from leading life of crime {page 6}

Violence in Afghanistan

Suicide bomber kills worshippers in Afghan capital {page 13}

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Leagues should pitch for funding: Alderman

In order to build four recreation centres in the city, one alderman says sport leagues may have to step up to the plate to help cover the costs.

Last month, the city learned $100 million in anticipated funding from the federal government would not be coming to Calgary, leaving many, including, Ald. Shane Keating, searching for alternate funding solutions. Keating argues sport leagues have the capability to produce funding over the long term but struggle to raise large sums of money all at once.

"The city has always wanted cash up front, they wouldn't allow financing," he said. "What I'm saying is we have to rethink that in this case and allow them possibly to finance it — put a mortgage on the building."

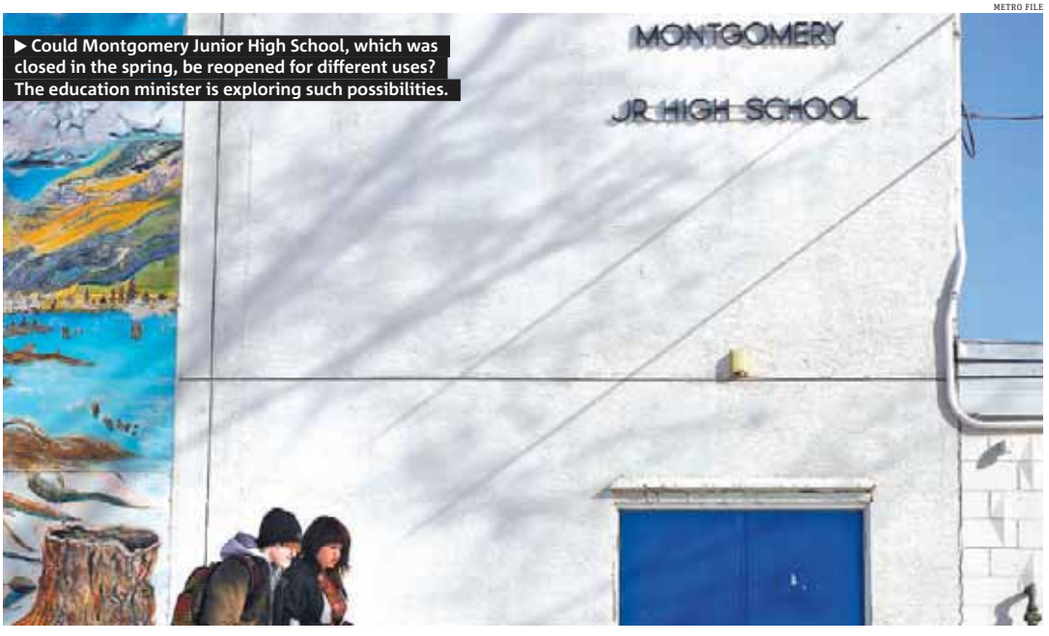
Hockey Calgary president Todd Millar said it's not an ideal solution, as the costs would likely be passed on to users; however, it is something the group has done in the past.

Tim Bjornson, executive director for Sport Calgary, said a move like this would put additional pressure on sport groups that are already stretched thin.

"Sports groups, generally, are raising money to run their programs, make those things happen and get the kids actually active, and so there isn't a lot of extra dollars after that."

KATIE TURNER

METRO FILE



▶ Could Montgomery Junior High School, which was closed in the spring, be reopened for different uses? The education minister is exploring such possibilities.

Medical, rec plans could keep school facilities in use

Public board is exploring closures in three areas of city
Premier Redford has advocated against such moves

JEREMY NOLAIS
@METRONEWS.CA

Closing schools permanently should be a last resort, says Alberta's education minister, who is exploring turning some unused educational facilities into short-term medical and recreation centres, among other things.

Thomas Lukaszuk says vacant properties that were once schools detract from communities and using them for alternative means could ensure they are well-maintained. Then, should student populations in a given area be restored, the facility could conceivably be reopened as a school in a few years.

"What do we do with our surplus buildings? Initially the answer was very black and white," Lukaszuk said. "I think there are other solutions."

Frank Coppinger, the Calgary Board of Education's superintendent for facilities, called Lukaszuk's proposal a "legitimate solution," noting that other North American school boards have taken such measures.

The CBE has opened alternative programs at under-used schools in the past, including an all-boys offering at Sir James Lougheed school last year.

But Calgary parent Christine Ordze isn't convinced. She helped stave off closure at Mayland Heights school last spring and believes opening a closed facility under a different guise would signal its end as a place of learning.

"When kids leave the public program and are doing well somewhere else, it's very hard to draw them back," she said.

The provincial education ministry is busy preparing a 10-point plan for the future of Alberta's education and new strategies for avoiding school closures will be included in that, Lukaszuk said.

Closures

- Alberta Education Minister Thomas Lukaszuk said the province currently has an overall vacancy of 25 per cent in schools provincewide.
- Edmonton's public board has put a moratorium on school closures for the time being.

1 news

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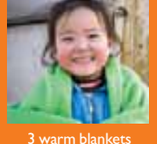
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COURT APPEARANCE

Man accused of child-porn possession gets bail

Bail has been granted to a foster-care supervisor in northern Alberta who has been charged with possessing and distributing child pornography.

Daniel Quiring Stoesz was released from custody Monday following a brief court appearance.

The 62-year-old foster parent and employee of the province's Ministry of Human Services faces strict conditions and returns to court Jan. 23. Stoesz was arrested last week after an investigation by the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Team's internet child exploitation unit, which said it received information from the FBI about the possible internet distribution of child pornography from a home in Lac La Biche. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Saskatchewan lends hand to quash beetles

Saskatchewan is helping its western neighbour in an effort to keep a voracious bug out of its own backyard.

The province is putting up $150,000 to help control the mountain pine beetle outbreak in Alberta and to prevent its spread into Saskatchewan's northern forest. The money is intended for enhanced monitoring, aggressive removal of infested trees and research.

The outbreak has killed almost 70 per cent of B.C.'s lodgepole pine forests and spread halfway across Alberta, costing the province $300 million over seven years. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Premier to disclose party expenses

METRO FILE

▶ Premier Alison Redford, pictured here in a file photo, is facing criticism from the Liberals over expense disclosures.

Alberta premier the highest paid in the country at $215,000

Alberta Premier Alison Redford is promising to release details on expense money she gets from her party, but is deflecting opposition questions on any cash that would top up her salary.

She says it's irrelevant because she's not getting any money. "I have repeatedly said in this house, last week, this week, (and) in a press availability yesterday I'm receiving no such payments," Redford said yesterday. "There is no information for me to be disclosing, because there is no information that I have."

Liberal critic Hugh MacDonald said Redford must come clean on whether she'll disclose any extra party money if it comes her way. "Why does the premier feel it's necessary to hide the details of the leader's benefit plan trust from taxpayers?" he asked.

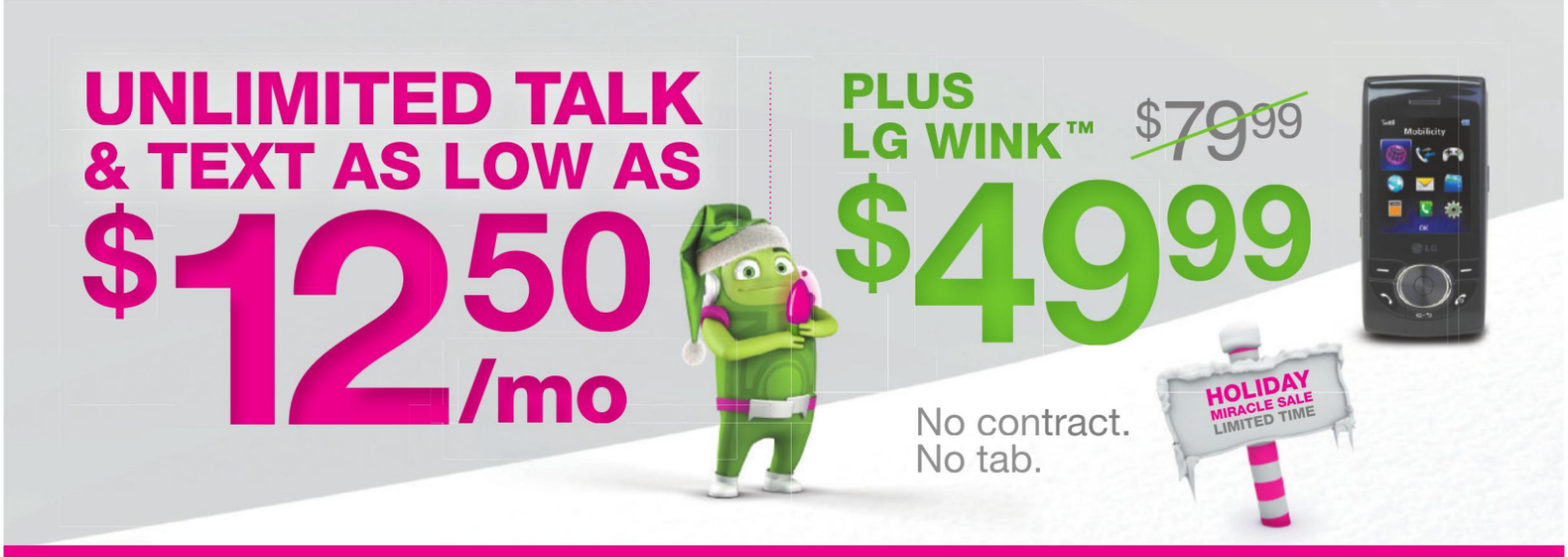
Salary top-up?

- **Political scientist Keith Brownsey** agreed the payments are not unusual, but suggested they leave the government open to criticism when unnamed sources appear to be topping up a premier's salary by an unknown amount.

Political scientist Duane Bratt said the issue is not as clear-cut as the Liberals would like to make it.

Reimbursing leaders for party activities is common, he said. Bratt added it's justifiable compensation for their efforts and not one that necessarily needs to be made public.

"This is just about hammering and trying to embarrass a political leader." THE CANADIAN PRESS



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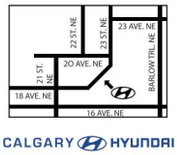

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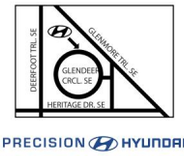

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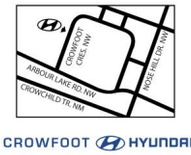

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Province plots next move in attempt to curtail gang activity

Strategy to prevent youth from life in organized crime now a year old ◐ More youngsters being reached

EMMA NOLAIS
@METRONEWS.CA

Allan Teather was diagnosed with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder in his early teens.

Finding it hard to stay engaged in the classroom, the Calgary native eventually drifted into the wrong crowd and never escaped.

At age 22, Teather was gunned down in a local parkade by an unknown individual or group.

"To be perfectly frank, I have no idea who he was hanging out with," said his mother, Andria Teather, who has become an outspoken advocate for crime-prevention measures since her son's death.

"I think it's such a complex issue about what message kids are going to hear that resonates with them."
ANDRIA TEATHER, SON WAS GUNNED DOWN

Hoping to prevent similar tragedies, the Alberta government rolled out its gang-reduction strategy last year, pushing $800,000 in funding and additional supports into youth agencies and police forces across the province.

New program

- In all, 14 projects and agencies throughout Alberta were aided by the initial anti-gang-strategy funding announcement.
- The scope and funding for the province's new education program, to be unveiled in the spring, is still being determined, said director Darren Caul.
- He added that numerous consultations have already been conducted with members of the community to discuss the added measures.

The message was simple — get to kids with messaging and assistance before the criminals do. Yesterday, the strategy celebrated its first anniversary, and director Darren Caul said a new major education program is already being planned for the spring.

"I think there is a clear understanding now that enforcement isn't enough," he said.

To date, the Big Brothers Big Sisters Society of Calgary has received $35,000 through the strategy to develop mentoring programs for youth who are new to Canada or still learning English.

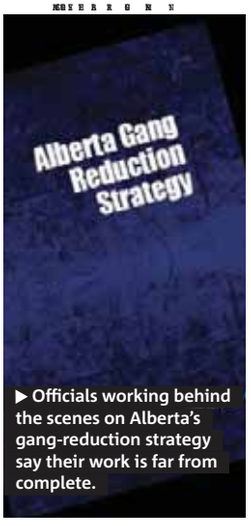
Spokesperson Lorna Carlson said the funding has proven integral and she is glad to see the strategy advanced.

"It has been really interesting and is something not often seen in North America," she said.

"We have seen a significant improvement in our relationships with groups in need and the number of youth we are reaching."

Teather, meanwhile, says she wholly supports the province's efforts but admits much work remains.

"I think it's such a complex issue about what message kids are going to hear that resonates with them," she said.



▶ Officials working behind the scenes on Alberta's gang-reduction strategy say their work is far from complete.

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Wage for CBE's top executive fair, chair says

Trustees are comfortable with paying Calgary's chief superintendent of public schools more than executives at bigger Canadian boards.

That's according to board chair Pat Cochrane who fielded questions last night on the $328,782 in total compensation paid out to top executive Naomi Johnson last year.

She said compensation at universities and other educational groups along with internal factors were all considered when determining appropriate pay.

"Our average teacher cost is $100,000.... It's not just how much is she (Johnson) getting paid, but how much everyone else is getting paid," Cochrane said.

The superintendent did forgo a typical $25,000 spending bonus, but was awarded a 6.7 per cent salary hike.

Her total compensation eclipses amounts made by superintendents at the three Canadian boards, all located in Ontario, with larger student populations.

▶ Johnson

Critics have deemed Johnson's pay inappropriate given the CBE has been forced to scrap hundreds of teaching positions to overcome budget shortfalls.

Johnson is on vacation and was unavailable for comment.

JEREMY NOLAIS

Occupy movement 101

◗ New course being offered at Mount Royal University ◗ Instructor open to altering content as it evolves ◗ Student reaction to course mixed

JEREMY NOLAIS
@METRONEWS.CA

Occupy Calgary members may be on their way out of Olympic Plaza, but their efforts will soon be the focus of a local university course.

Starting in January, Mount Royal University assistant professor Roberta Lexier will begin teaching the Occupy Wall Street course offered through the general education faculty.

It will focus on the movement's early stages in New York as well as its evolution to numerous sister camps, including the plaza-dwelling group in Calgary.

"It really demonstrates that the issues we are dealing in our world are not simple and that's really the aim of this course," she said.

MRU students were surprised to learn of the course yesterday.

"That's interesting," said first-year English student Kassandra Dick. "I want to learn about current events.... It depends on how it's taught, but I would definitely consider it."

But commerce student Owen Smid disagreed.

"To me, it's blowing it out of proportion," he said. "It feels like they are grasping at straws."

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

▶ Roberta Lexier, seen here in a Mount Royal University classroom, is devoting an entire course next semester to the global Occupy movement.

The course

- Mount Royal University's Occupy course is believed to be the first of its kind.
- So far, 10 students have signed on for the course and instructor Roberta Lexier hopes to draw more interest ahead of the winter semester.
- She plans to consult with civil lawyers and the occupiers themselves prior to the first day of class. Some demonstrators may actually even be invited to host classroom lectures.

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SAIT honours fellow polytechnic students

- Students placed 14 white roses at a memorial on SAIT campus
- Ceremony held on National Day of Remembrance

KATIE TURNER
@METRONEWS.CA

Many current students are too young to remember the deaths of 14 women at a Montreal school more than 20 years ago, but SAIT Polytechnic aimed to ensure the tragedy is not forgotten.

A ceremony was held yesterday on the Calgary campus in remembrance of the Dec. 6, 1989, shooting at École Polytechnique, known as the Montreal massacre, where a male student separated the men and women at the school before shooting the females.

Rev. Marcel Carpenter, an instructor and campus Chaplin, reminded the students the deceased were studying to become engineers and nurses like many SAIT students.

Carpenter, a former Montreal resident, said he remembers sitting in his car and listening to the radio as the tragedy unfolded.

"When this event occurred, it changed people radically and profoundly," he said. "These women did not die in vain."

Matthew Armstrong, VP Academic with the SAIT Student's Association, said although the shooting was many years ago, it's important to remember.

"It holds a lot of meaning here because we are a polytechnic, very similar type of institution," he said. "It's also really important to stop violence before it spreads."

KATIE TURNER/METRO

▶ Jessica Byman, third from right, stands with fellow SAIT students yesterday during a ceremony.

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Congo's election voted ... a mess

Results delayed amid chaos • President's legal mandate has to be extended • Americans told to stay home, violence feared

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Police form a barricade outside the U.S. Consulate in Toronto yesterday behind people protesting Congo's botched election. Three people were arrested. Protesters said the election was fixed and the world is not acting.

Congo — and its mishap-scarred election — was in limbo yesterday.

Officials announced a 48-hour delay in the publication of election results from last week's disputed presidential ballot — causing protests.

The government dispatched helicopters to the remote corners of the country to pick up missing tally sheets.

And the clock stopped on Joseph Kabila's presidency.

The threat of unrest hung over the troubled capital, Kinshasa, and international airlines cancelled their flights amid fears over violence.

The U.S. Embassy ordered its staff and their families not to leave their residences until further notice.

The American School of Kinshasa will be closed.

The 48-hour delay was all but inevitable following an election that was marred by massive technical glitches.

Some ballots didn't reach polling stations until three days after the vote was supposed to take place.

And even though it was clear that the election commission was not prepared for last week's ballot, the government rushed ahead with the election because the president's five-year term was set to expire at midnight last night.

The 48-hour delay means Kabila will be staying in office past his legal mandate — and analysts worry the country could slide into a situation of unconstitutional power.

"As we haven't yet been able to receive the tally sheets from all 60,000 polling stations in the country, we decided to push back the publication by 48 hours," said Matthieu Mpita of the National Independent Electoral Commission.

"It was our objective to make the deadline," he said, "but we need all the elements."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

[redacted]

A man who U.S. officials say helped a woman leave the country with her daughter to avoid giving custody to her former lesbian partner surrendered yesterday to face charges he aided in international parental kidnapping.

It's alleged Kenneth Miller, 46, arranged passage for Lisa Miller to travel to Canada before flying with her daughter in 2009 to Nicaragua, where she was sheltered for a time by Mennonite missionaries.

Kenneth Miller appeared in U.S. District Court in Vermont and was released, said U.S. Attorney Tristram Coffin.

Lisa Miller and Janet Jenkins moved to Vermont

LGBTQNATION.COM

▶ Lisa Miller, left, and Janet Jenkins. Their relationship ended.

to be joined in a civil union in 2000. Two years later, Miller gave birth to Isabella, conceived through artificial insemination. The couple split in 2003, with Miller renouncing homosexuality and becoming a Christian.

A judge gave Lisa Miller cusody of the girl but ordered regular visits with Jenkins in Vermont. Miller defied court visitation orders for several years.

In 2009 a Vermont judge turned custody of the child over to Jenkins.

Prosecutors say Lisa Miller and the child travelled to Nicaragua in 2009 before the handover could take place.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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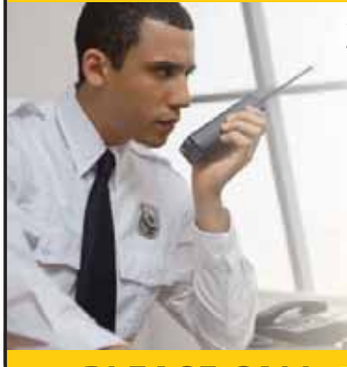

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Liberals to keep sex ed in bullying law

The Liberal government says it's not prepared to abandon the sex-ed component of a pending anti-bullying law.

The pledge comes despite criticism by religious leaders that the component is an affront to family values.

Christians, Jews and Muslim say they agree bullies must be stopped, but they can't condone a requirement that schools promote sexual tolerance through gay clubs.

Charles McVety, of the Institute for Canadian Values, says Premier Dalton McGuinty is using bullying to advance "his radical sex-education agenda."

Education Minister Laurel Broten rejected criticisms as "homophobic."

She said her job is to make sure every child finds school a warm and inviting place.

Premier Dalton McGuinty defended the legislation, saying all Catholic schools will be required to have a gay-straight alliance, though they won't have to use that name.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

My ring saved me from grave

A woman has told a British jury how she used her engagement ring to free herself after her boyfriend tried to bury her alive.

Michelina Lewandowska accuses him of binding her with tape and putting her in a cardboard box that he buried.

Lewandowska, 27, said she used her ring to cut the tape, then tore apart the box.

Her partner is charged with attempted murder.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bomb kills 56 in Kabul

Suicide bomber strikes Shiite worshippers in Afghan capital At least 4 more dead in Mazar-e-Sharif

In Afghanistan's first major sectarian assault since the fall of the Taliban regime a decade ago, a suicide bomber slaughtered 56 Shiite worshippers and wounded more than 160 others yesterday outside a Shiite shrine in the capital.

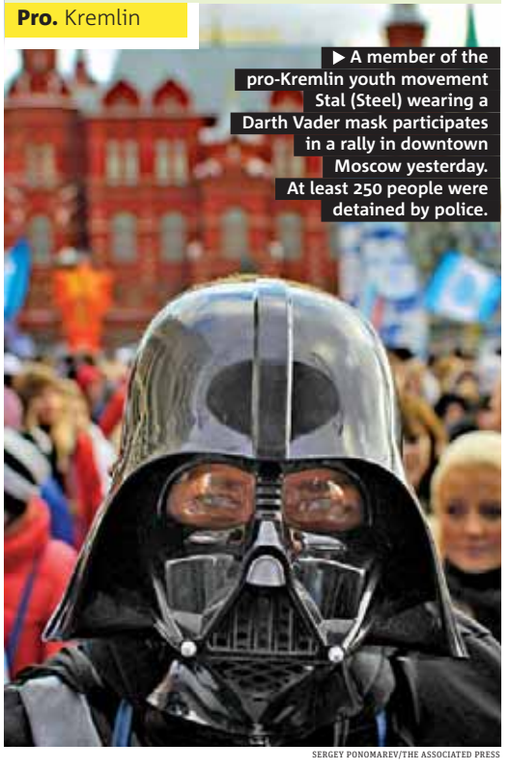
The Taliban condemned the attack, which was reminiscent of the wave of sectarian bloodshed that shook Iraq during the height of the war there. Suspicion centred on militant groups based in neighbouring Pakistan, where Sunni attacks on minority Shiites are common.

A man who claimed to be from Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, a Pakistan-based group that has carried out attacks against Shiite Muslims, called media outlets in Pakistan to claim responsibility. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AHMAD JAMSHID/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Relatives attempt to comfort an Afghan man outside of a hospital in Kabul yesterday.

Pro. Kremlin



▶ A member of the pro-Kremlin youth movement Stal (Steel) wearing a Darth Vader mask participates in a rally in downtown Moscow yesterday. At least 250 people were detained by police.

SERGEY PONOMAREV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Youth storm Moscow

Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said yesterday he's satisfied with the performance of his party in Russia's parliamentary election even though it lost a significant number of seats, adding that a drop in support is "inevitable" for any ruling party. The statement came as U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton again criticized the election.

Radiation found in Japanese baby food

31 The levels of cesium-134 and cesium-137 in the milk were up to 31 becquerels per kilogram, which is below the government limit of 200 becquerels per kilogram for milk.

Traces of radiation spilled from Japan's hobbled nuclear plant were detected in baby formula yesterday in the latest case of contaminated food in the nation.

Major food and candy maker Meiji Co. said it was recalling canned powdered milk for infants, with expiration dates of October 2012, as a precaution.

The levels of radioactive cesium were below government-set safety limits, and Meiji said the amounts were low enough not to have any effect on babies' health. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Soviets know our North well

- Cold War fears bolstered: Subs patrolled Arctic
- Their maps were more detailed than Canadian ones

Shades of Red October.

Cold-War-era nautical charts appear to support the widely held belief that Soviet nuclear submarines routinely patrolled the Canadian Arctic during the Cold War.

What's more, the charts are still in use by Russian vessels because they are more detailed than Canadian ones.

"I can't help but think back to The Hunt For Red October, where Sean Connery plays the captain of a Soviet nuclear missile submarine and relies on the accuracy of Soviet charts to avoid a torpedo that's been shot at his ship," said Arctic expert Michael Byers. "These charts indicate that the Soviets were in fact that competent."

300

"At the current rate of charting, it will take 300 years for the Canadian Hydrographic Service to bring all our charts for the Canadian archipelago to world standards," said Michael Byers.

Photos of the charts, seen by The Canadian Press, suggest Russian mariners have for decades possessed detailed knowledge of crucial internal waterways such as the Northwest Passage.

The charts, covering strategic Arctic waterways, appear to be clearly marked with Soviet insignia, including the red star and the hammer and sickle.

Byers said: "The Soviet navy was extremely capable and also was willing to take considerable risk.

"Sending submarines into the Canadian archipelago, which was heavily monitored by NATO, thousands of miles away from Soviet assistance, was a perilous thing to do.

"It was a phenomenal accomplishment."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

HEATHER MACINTYRE/METRO

▶ Tastes like Canada: Master Cpl. Richard Fraser, left, and Cpl. Steven Baker enjoy a hot one after arriving in Edmonton yesterday — on the same flight as the last Timbits made in Kandahar.

Taste of home comes back with returning soldiers

HEATHER MCINTYRE
@METRONEWS.CA
METRO CANADA IN EDMONTON

When the Tim Hortons in Kandahar shut down last month, the staff decided to whip up a souvenir.

And so it was that the last batch of Timbits ever made there landed at the Edmonton airport yesterday on a flight bringing home not only soldiers but also many civilians who staffed the store.

"Tim Hortons was the part that truly provided a taste of home for them," said Bill Pigden, manager of the Canadian Forces personnel support programs division, which operated the outlet.

Pigden said after the store was shut down, workers went back in and produced the last Timbits.

They were frozen for a month and they arrived yesterday in two boxes signed by soldiers.

McDonald's charity launches new online app

Ronald McDonald House has launched Kidscape on iTunes.

The gaming app features images drawn by kids staying at Ronald McDonald Houses — for families of kids being treated at area hospitals.

The app is available in three different versions — city, farm and space.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Harper off to White House

Stephen Harper heads to the White House today to unveil a long-awaited border security agreement with U.S. President Barack Obama. The fate of the $7-billion Keystone XL pipeline is also sure to be discussed at some point. The project was shelved at least temporarily by the Obama administration a month ago.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tories not welcome at Montreal massacre memorial

Hundreds of women gathered on Parliament Hill yesterday to mark the slaying of 14 women in Montreal 22 years ago.

They are angry with the Harper government over its decision to abolish the long-gun registry.

Conservatives were not invited to the event.

Gun control advocate Wendy Cukier said the Dec. 6 anniversary of the mass shooting at the École Polytechnique has a dual meaning. "More than ever before, we must mourn but we must also work for change," she told the crowd, many waving placards with "Save the gun registry" slogans.

"We have to stand together like today, bravely, against a government that is turning back the clock on women's rights."

NDP LEADER NYCOLE TURMEL

Friends and relatives of the slain women placed roses into an urn and posters bearing the victims' smiling faces were held aloft by the crowd.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Accident nothing to sneeze at

A truck driver says sneezing was to blame when he lost control of his rig and rolled into a ditch in central Newfoundland.

Police say the driver had just started his shift when the accident happened on the Trans-Canada Highway.

The rig hit the shoulder and overturned in a ditch west of Gander. The driver suffered cuts and bruises.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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News in brief

Police recover 2 stolen dogs

Police say two of four British bulldog puppies stolen from an Ajax, Ont., store have been recovered. Police say someone forced their way into The Puppy Store early Monday and made off with the four puppies.

Investigators located one of the pups — valued at $2,000 each — for sale on the Internet website Kijiji. That led to the arrest of two people and the recovery of one puppy. A second puppy was found during a raid on an Ajax home.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mayor missing in Arctic

Search teams are still looking for the mayor of an Arctic hamlet who hasn't been seen since he went caribou hunting alone 10 days ago.

Jamesie Kootoo, who is 67, is both mayor and coroner for the Baffin Island community of Kimmirut in Nunavut.

Kootoo is an experienced hunter and has been missing before — the last time he had a fractured pelvis and still survived.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Man dies in bike crash

Authorities say an 18-year-old Washington state man is dead after he crashed his motorcycle a half-hour after passing his motorcycle-licence test.

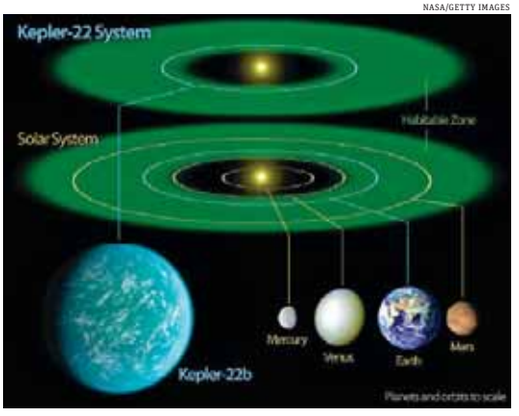
Bellingham police spokesman Mark Young says David Swift had just passed a car and was waving on his brother when he lost control, hit a curb and slid.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Search for E.T. is back on

News of 'Earth's twin' has science world excited ◆ Kepler-22b could support life ◆ NASA has reported 54 potential Earth-like candidates

NASA/GETTY IMAGES



JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

The first confirmed planet that could be "Earth's twin" seems to have a lot going for it.

It apparently has a comfy 21 C surface temperature, a rocky surface, an ocean, a sun to orbit and a position smack in the middle of the habitable "Goldilocks" zone in relation to that sun (neither too hot nor too cold).

All this is sheer scientific speculation about the planet called Kepler-22b, but it's enough to make NASA celebrate.

"This is a major milestone on the road to finding Earth's twin," said Douglas Hudgins, Kepler program scientist at NASA's Washington headquarters.

"I think there are two things that are really exciting about Kepler-22b," said Natalie Batalha, the deputy science team leader at NASA's Ames Research Center. "One is that it's right in the middle of this habitable zone.

"The second thing that's really exciting is it's orbiting a star very, very similar to our own sun. This is a solar analogue, almost a solar twin, very similar to our own sun and you've got a planet 2.4 times the size of the Earth right smack in the habitable zone."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"The tremendous growth in the number of Earth-size candidates tells us that we're honing in on the planets Kepler was designed to detect: those that are not only Earth-size, but also are potentially habitable."

NATALIE BATALHA, DEPUTY SCIENCE TEAM LEADER AT NASA'S AMES RESEARCH CENTER

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Santa promising less in poor economy

Those playing the jolly bearded one during the holidays are hearing more from kids about tough times

A job for their mom or dad. Money for the heating bill. Food or a place to live. Maybe gloves or boots.

More and more, Santas say the children on their laps are asking for less — and Santa is promising less as well.

With unemployment in the U.S. stubbornly high, more homes in foreclosure and the economic outlook dim, many children who visit Santa are all too aware of the struggle to make ends meet.

"These children understand the conditions around the home when they ask for stuff. They understand when there are other children in the family, they need to be cautious or thoughtful of them as well and not ask for 10 to 12 items," said Richard Holden, a 69-year-old Santa from Gastonia, N.C.

Cliff Snider, who's been playing Santa since he was a teenager, agrees.

"I think the parents are saying, 'It's an economic thing. Just list two to three things you really want to have,'" he said. "Parents are trying to encourage the children to be thrifty."

"Families are teaching their children to be as much of a giver as a receiver," said Tom Valent, dean of the Howard Santa school in Midland, Mich., which gets more than 3,000 letters to Santa a year and just graduated its 75th class.

Texan mother Starlight Fonseca has been teaching her five children, ages 5 to 14, "that we're not the only ones who have to cut things back. We're not the only ones struggling."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

TSX	Dollar	Oil	Natural gas 1,000 cu ft
- 38.08 (12,081.25)	+ 0.7¢ (99.05¢ US)	+ 29¢ US ($101.28 US)	$3.504 (+ 4.3¢)

Gold contracts $1,731.80 (- $2.70)

TOM COPELAND/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Santa Claus gets a kiss on the cheek from Bella Champion, 3, during a Christmas photo shoot at the Beach Shack in Emerald Isle, N.C.

EU to probe Apple over ebook pricing

The European Union's antitrust watchdog is probing whether Apple helped five major publishing houses illegally raise prices for ebooks when it launched its iPad tablet and iBookstore in 2010.

The probe, announced yesterday by the European Commission, offers a glimpse into the fierce fight for shares of the growing ebook market, especially as Apple has tried to take on Amazon and its Kindle ebook reader. It also highlights the struggle for profits between retailers and publishers, as more and more readers download books electronically.

In particular, the commission is investigating a significant shift in the way the price of ebooks is determined that occurred in 2010, just as Cupertino, Calif.-based Apple introduced the iPad and its own online bookshop, iBookstore.

The commission stressed the probe did not mean the companies actually broke EU laws. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Holiday cheer is all in the cards: Survey

A survey for Canada Post suggests physical greeting cards are still a favourite Canadian holiday tradition.

Overall, the Harris/Decima survey of around 1,000 Canadian adults found that 87 per cent of Canadians between 18 and 24 prefer receiving holiday cards in the mail, but many admitted that they would most likely send e-cards, due to lack of time. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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BAH, HUMBUG? BLAME DICKENS FOR CHRISTMAS

JUST SAYIN' ...

PAUL SULLIVAN
METRO

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.

Yikes!

It's only the first week of December and I'm already suffering from an overdose of yule. Barely a minute goes by before some company, be it Mercedes Benz or Victoria's Secret, tries to twist my Christmas goodwill into cash at the till. Santa Claus is more common than the cold, and any turkey that survived Thanksgiving is sure to be done like dinner by Dec. 25.

I blame Charles Dickens, who turns 200 not long after Christmas — Feb. 7, 2012, to be precise. Well, actually he's dead and has been since 1870. But the man who wrote A Christmas Carol is no less responsible for Christmas as we know it.

As you know, as it's impossible to avoid, A Christmas Carol is the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserable old fart who sees the error of his ways thanks to being haunted by three very memorable ghosts on Christmas Eve, and becomes an improbably wonderful, kind, generous friend to all, especially to Tiny Tim, his clerk's frail little son.

"Historians believe Christmas is largely the result of a mid-Victorian revival prompted by A Christmas Carol."

Historians believe Christmas is largely the result of a mid-Victorian revival prompted by A Christmas Carol. Dickens reintroduced warmth into what had become mainly a religious holiday by immortalizing family feasts, greeting cards, seasonal food and drink, fun and games, and an SUV under every tree.

Even though it was published in 1843, A Christmas Carol is not going away soon. There are 200 million copies in print. It's been made into a movie at least 20 times, the most recent being the 2009 Disney 3-D version starring Jim Carey as Scrooge.

We are bombarded by the imagery and iconography of this Dickensian Christmas. Holly, yule logs, crackling fires (where would we be without the 24-7 fireplace channel on cable?), gift giving, carols and the like have been co-opted into an orgy of commercial excess that now begins on or about Halloween, another festival with pagan roots that's completely out of control.

If we don't spend more to achieve the perfect Dickensian Christmas this year than we did last year, business commentators scold us for lacking consumer confidence and the market drops.

I suspect that Dickens, if confronted with this spectacle, would exclaim, "Bah, humbug" in his best Scrooge, and storm off into the night. After all, despite the vast sums made from the conversion of Scrooge, Dickens only ever saw profits that would equate to a mere $138,275.10 today.

Of course he was the first to try and cash in, writing a Christmas piece in every subsequent year and featuring Scrooge at many of his profitable public readings.

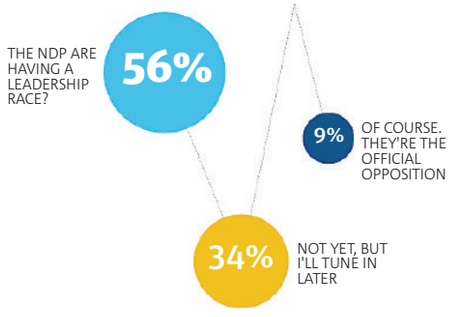
He may have been the first, but he won't be the last. God bless us, everyone.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Have you been following the NDP leadership race?



Local tweets

- **@Spencer Schmick:** Saw @Joan_Rivers last night in #yyc. LOVED it! Laughed until we cried and then we went for cocktails to recoup. Thanks @Joan_Rivers !
- **@CShmyr:** At the #YYC airport saying goodbye to my brother @TShmyr :(... see you in 2 weeks!!
- **@MarcellaMaroo:** Just saw a #smartcar dressed up as rudolf, love #christmasspirit #yyc
- **@Derek_REInvest:** Its beautiful outside right now. Too bad its supposed to snow later. Typical day in #yyc
- **@TindalltheFirst:** It's too nice out to be winter. #yyc
- **@svbhuber:** @nenshi what is your stance on the fact that calgary public school board is not allowing christmas to be celebrated? #yyc
- **@AlyJP:** Just saw a #yyc cowboy cop on a horse... In the city.
- **@DaveAlbano:** Just saw a Bald Eagle soaring over downtown Calgary! Now that's something you don't see everyday #YYC

Daily Zoom

WILFREDO LEE PHOTOS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A tale of two forces

A wildlife biologist holds a small crocodile that will be released into one of the cooling canals adjacent to the Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant in Homestead, Fla.

An unexpected but fruitful relationship has blossomed between the American crocodile and the nuclear power plant.

The crocodile-monitoring program began in 1978, a year after employees stumbled upon a crocodile nest in the plant's cooling canal system. It turns out that Florida Power and Light was building prime croc habitat just as virtually every other developer was paving it over.

Wildlife officials give the state's largest public utility part of the credit for a five-fold increase in the species' population in Florida.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

8 Wildlife biologists use an Avid Microchip Scanner to scan the stomach of a small crocodile. Microchips are used as a reference ID, much like a thumb print, to scan the captured animal, as well as to track any animal that falls prey to others as a result of cannibalism. Biologists said one crocodile was found with eight chips inside its belly.

Endangered

A wildlife biologist measures a small crocodile.

- South Florida's rampant development eroded the crocodile's habitat over decades of booming growth. By the 1970s, there were less than 300 in the state. The federal government had classified the species as endangered, meaning it was in danger of becoming extinct.

metro

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2 scene

HANDOUT

▶ Zac Efron and Michelle Pfeiffer star in the romantic comedy New Year's Eve.

Efron celebrates sharing a movie kiss with Michelle Pfeiffer ◐ They star in New Year's Eve

NED EHRBAR
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

While New Year's Eve isn't the first time Michelle Pfeiffer and Zac Efron have crossed paths on screen — they had a few choice scenes in 2007's Hairspray — it does mark an important milestone in their professional relationship, at least as far as Efron is concerned.

"I met Michelle a few years ago, during Hairspray, and had a huge crush on her — always, from day one. Back then I was very, very young and very bashful, and just around her I tended to put my foot in my mouth a lot. I didn't really know what to say to her, and everything just came out wrong," Efron remembers. "I didn't know what to do. I was very shy. But then I got to talk on the phone with her about this part, I remember. And she said, 'I think we should take this to the next level. We should really push it. Let's get a kiss in there.' And I was like, 'I'm in! I'm in this movie, sign me up. Let's do it.'"

In the film, another romantic comedy omnibus in the style of Valentine's Day from director Gary Marshal, Pfeiffer stars as Ingrid, a mild-mannered office drone brought out of her shell by Efron's brash bike messenger.

"I'm the envy of every girl across the planet, I think. I got a kiss in there with Zac Efron. Pretty clever of me, at the ripe old age of 53," Pfeiffer says.

Efron is the eternal optimist, though, despite having to battle the elements during filming.

"On the plus side, it was basically us snuggling very close. So it was kind of nice," he says of the frigid conditions. "I felt very comforted."

For Efron, the biggest challenge in the film arose when it came time to finally get that kiss with Pfeiffer.

"I remember I was in my hotel room the night before, imagining how I was going to kiss her, and it was awesome. I was the man in every way," he says.

"And then I went to execute on the day, and right when I got to the crucial moment a huge piece of confetti flew right into my mouth."

Better luck next year.

Mueller

A Colorado judge will let actor Charlie Sheen's ex-wife, Brooke Mueller, to return to California following her arrest in Aspen on assault and drug charges.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rango, Rio, Puss, Tintin earn Annie nominations for best animated film

SITTING THROUGH A FAMILIAR FILM

IN FOCUS

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Wikipedia says "babysitting is commonly performed as an odd job by teenagers for extra money." While that is undoubtedly the stereotype, the movies have shown us that babysitters come in all shapes and sizes.

This weekend Jonah Hill plays an irresponsible college student who reluctantly looks after his neighbour's wild kids. How wild is it? Well, let's put it this way; I don't think Nanny McPhee had a "red band" trailer.

If it sounds familiar, it should. Twenty-four years ago babysitter Elisabeth Shue led her young charges through the streets of Chicago in Adventures in Babysitting. At one point they end up on a nightclub stage. The leader of the house band, played by blues legend Albert Collins, says, "Nobody leaves this place without singing the blues."

After an awkward pause she improvises the Babysitting Blues.

"It's so hard babysitting these guys," she sings. "And they should be in bed," replies the guitar player over a classic blues-rock riff.

The most lovable movie minder has to be John Candy as Uncle Buck. Even though he pretends to be capable of mutilation with power tools, he's less violent than Rebecca De Mornay in The Hand That Rocks the Cradle, manlier than Robin Williams in Mrs. Doubtfire and more alive than all the babysitters in Halloween.

In the movie's most famous scene he answers a barrage of questions from his nephew, played by Macaulay Culkin.

On the day of filming the younger actor couldn't remember all the questions, so Candy wrote them out and hid them where Culkin could read them. Now that's something a great babysitter would do.

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The Shore gets another scent

JWOWW is latest celeb to release signature fragrance ‘Sexy perfume’ reeks of classy rebranding and ‘inspired by days and nights down the shore’

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Not to be outdone by fellow Jersey Shore cast-member Snooki releasing her own perfume, busty reality star JWoww is releasing her own signature fragrance, too.

The perfume, also called JWoww, comes out just in time for the holiday season, retailing at such choice outlets as Kmart, Amazon.com and JWowwPerfume.com.

According to the press release, JWoww is a “sexy perfume inspired by days and nights down the shore” (note the New Jersey colloquialism “down the shore,” which means “at the beach”).

Just in case we can fool ourselves into thinking this scent wasn’t created by a bunch of Chinese child labourers mixing together a bunch of synthetic compounds into something resembling “sweet,” there’s even a hilarious run down of the “notes” in the $29.99 bottle:

Top notes: Anjou pear, sparkling citron, fresh air
Middle notes: Rose petals, geranium blossom, sheer muguet
Bottom notes: Sandalwood, deep musk, white moss

A tiny gold JWOWW charm adorns the sleek bottle, which was also created by JWoww.

This is some seriously classy rebranding from JWoww here.

I love that “fresh air” is included as one of the predominant “notes,” in place of, say, “vomit after a night of Red Bull, 2 a.m. chicken wings, and half a case of Miller Lite,” which is what I think of when we think of smells “inspired by days and nights down the shore.”

▶ Jenni “JWOWW” Farley attends the MTV Europe Music Awards 2011 last month in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

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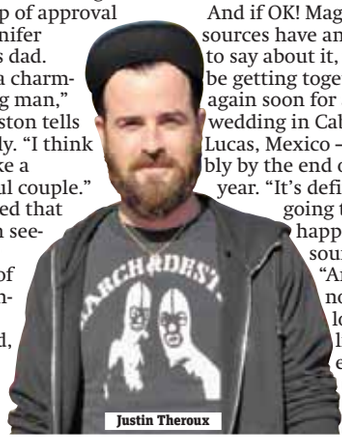
Daddy Aniston likes Theroux

Justin Theroux has gotten the stamp of approval from Jennifer Aniston’s dad.

“He’s a charming young man,” John Aniston tells Us Weekly. “I think they make a wonderful couple.” John added that he’s been seeing a fair amount of his daughter’s boyfriend, as they “get together whenever we can.”



Justin Theroux

And if OK! Magazine’s sources have anything to say about it, they’ll be getting together again soon for a wedding in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico — possibly by the end of the year. “It’s definitely going to happen,” a source says. “And right now it’s looking like sooner rather than later.”

METRO

▶ Johnny Depp

Depp’s bodyguard accused of assault

The Los Angeles Police Department is interested in speaking with Johnny Depp after one of his bodyguards was accused of assaulting a disabled woman at an Iggy Pop concert last week, according to TMZ.

According to the filed complaint, Robyn Ecker — who paid $600 for her tickets to the concert — claims a member of Depp’s entourage grabbed her wrists and wrestled her to the ground after she was dancing too close to his VIP table.

Ecker went to the hospital before filing the complaint.

METRO

Celebrity tweets

@ConanOBrien

Had a great celebrity sighting today: the @DalaiLama at Chipotle.

@joelmchale

Contest: find the account on twitter w/the fewest # of followers & the largest number of tweets. Prize: DVD of the Chevy Chase’s Karate Dog.

@HankAzaria

I confuse tackle with tickle a lot.

@simonpegg

Slightly confusing doing press for two films simultaneously. Keep talking about Ethan Hunt’s faithful canine sidekick, Snowy.

Rosie’s engaged

Rosie O’Donnell and new girlfriend Michelle Rounds’ whirlwind romance just picked up speed, as O’Donnell announced on her talk show that the pair are engaged and will be tying the knot over Christmas, according to Hollyscoop.

According to friends, the couple is “very, very happy.”

Not so happy? Rounds’ parents, who claim they only recently learned their 40-year-old daughter is a lesbian.

“This has been a painful experience for me and my wife,” Roger Rounds said previously.

“We’d always held out hope that Michelle would eventually find a nice guy to marry, settle down and have kids. And now this — it’s pretty shocking stuff for us to digest.”

METRO

▶ Rosie O’Donnell

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3 life

Travel in brief

Readers of Global Traveler magazine have voted Air Canada the best airline in North America. The award is based on responses from more than 36,000 readers of the magazine. Global Traveler readers are frequent premium travellers who average 32 round-trip flights a year, with 78 per cent travelling in first or business class regularly. Air Canada says winning the loyalty of premium customers is a priority for all carriers.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ski resorts around world use artist's hand-painted panoramas in their trail maps

MARK EVELEIGH

First Tango in Buenos Aires

EMMA E. FORREST
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

I've been in Buenos Aires for less than an hour and already I'm feeling the bizarre atmosphere of addiction and romance that's at the heart of the world of tango.

"It used to be just Argentines who danced tango," my taxi driver is enthusing. "Now people come from Australia, Canada, Europe... even Korea and Japan."

Tango attracts particularly dedicated — not to say fanatical — followers and for millions of people the Argentine capital has become the ultimate place of pilgrimage.

Private tango tuition rather than group classes is considered a must, so I'm partnered with fellow tango-virgin, Turkish TV presenter Asli Pelit, for my first foray into the dance. We take our first tentative baby steps as tangueros on Susana Mirosmik's little terrace as steaks sizzle on the parilla (barbecue), which will be a welcome reward for our efforts.

Susana has been dancing tango for more than 20 years and is one of the most well-known faces in the tango scene here. "You must learn to walk before you can dance," she says as she shows us how to move. "A graceful walk is the very basics of the dance."

We move in carefully measured circles around the terrace and begin to grasp the meditative aspect that aficionados claim is the essence of the tango experience.

Some come to Buenos Aires to watch spectacular tango exhibitions or to spend a fortune on months of private lessons. Some dedicated pilgrims come simply to immerse themselves in the serenity of the milongas. These are traditional local dances where the purest tango can be found, and Susana guides us to a milonga at La Nacional. Alcohol consumption is low and voices lower still. The men affect the stance of gentleman matadors and the women demure debutantes. On the dance floor any exuberant exhibitionism is frowned upon. Poise and reserve are the keys to acceptance at a traditional milonga like this.

I'm aware that elegance and matador poise are yet to establish a permanent place in my psyche, but under Susana's guidance I'm at least able to appreciate the under-stated subtleties of milonga footwork.

I might only be on my first steps to tango expertise but it feels good to be able to say that I have at least learned to really walk in Buenos Aires.

TAKES THREE TO TANGO

LEARN

- Susana Mirosmik is arguably the best contact to set up tango lessons in Buenos Aires. Her company Su Tours can also arrange everything from tango instructions to accommodation and weeklong tours of upcountry Argentina. **sutours.blogspot.com**

PARTIES

- Some of the most recommended milongas — traditional local tango dances — are La Nacional, El Arranque and La Ideal. Milongas cost around $5 admission and many include an hour of tuition at the beginning. **buenosaires-milongas.com**

SHOWS

- The most famous and spectacular tango shows can be seen at Rojo Tango (from $220; rojo-tango.com), at La Ventana Tango (from $90; tangotix.com) and La Esquina Carlos Gardel (esquinacarlosgardel.com.ar).

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The lights of the Falls

In winter, Niagara Falls comes to 'light' in a dazzling array of colours for up to seven hours each night

DOUG BENZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Frequently, the colours chosen to light Niagara Falls are picked to honour a cause.

You can't take a boat ride into the roar and spray of Niagara Falls in the winter, but this time of year offers a different spectacle: Nighttime illumination of the falls in a changing array of colours — red, white, blue, purple, orange, amber and green.

In spring and summer, the coloured lights shine for just three hours, but with less daylight in winter, curtains of colour wash over the falls each night for up to seven hours.

Crowds gather along the sidewalk and railing on Niagara Parkway to see the show as mist rises from the falls and basin in front of them; others watch from the windows of hotels and restaurants on the Canadian side.

The display starts with patriotic themes — red, white and blue for the American Falls, red and white for the horseshoe-shaped Canadian Falls — and frequently includes colours to honour a cause. When Niagara Falls hosted the first wedding following New York's legalization of same-sex marriage in July, Mayor Paul Dyster arranged for a rainbow of colours, the symbol of gay pride.

▶ The best views come on crisp winter nights.

If you go...

- niagaraparks.com/attractions/falls-illumination.html
- The falls are currently illuminated in colour from 5 p.m. to midnight, with shorter hours as dusk and daylight change according to the season.

On Nov. 16, the falls were lit by white light for 15-minute stretches for lung cancer awareness, a request made by Christine Dwyer, who founded a group called Make Some Noise for Lung Cancer Awareness after losing her best friend to the disease.

"I think it validates us a bit," said Dwyer, of Becket, Mass.

The light beams emanate from a bank of 18 spotlights, each about 75 centimetres in diameter, sitting atop a raised stone bunker across the road. For more than 50 years, Peter Gordon, 80, has been manning the light show, splitting the week with "the rookie," Dick Mann, 78, who has been at it just under 30 years.

Both are from Ontario.

"I never get tired of it," Gordon, 80, said one night in November, the start of his busy season, when fewer daylight hours mean longer nights to light. The best views come on crisp winter nights, Gordon said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

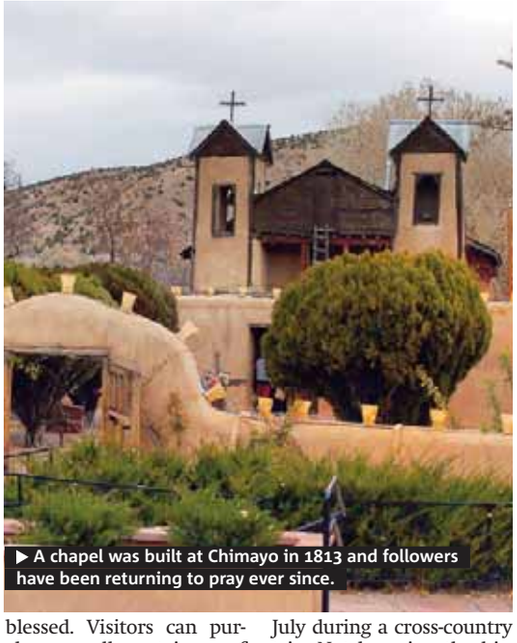
The sands of Chimayo

Pilgrims flock to a tiny church in New Mexico hoping for a miracle
For the non-believers, there's plenty of art and history, too

RUSSELL CONTRERAS

▶ Chimayo is a small adobe church known for its religious paintings, original decorations and, according to believers, power to heal.

▶ For 200 years, Hispanic and Native American pilgrims have sought help from Chimayo.



▶ A chapel was built at Chimayo in 1813 and followers have been returning to pray ever since.

They come in pain and in prayer, seeking cures and a cup of sand from a tiny adobe church called Chimayo.

For two centuries, Hispanic and Native American pilgrims have sought help from El Santuario de Chimayo (pronounced CHEE'-mah-YOH'), located in a mountain hamlet in northern New Mexico. They clutch pictures of sick loved ones, hobble weakly on crutches, and bring stories of hopeless conditions. They leave small slips of paper asking for mercy and miracles, promise to give up drinking and show more compassion, and they light candles in front of images of saints and La Virgen de Guadalupe, patron of the Americas.

Before they leave, they visit a room in the shrine that houses "el pocito," which means the little well, a small pit of holy adobe-coloured dirt, which some say possesses the power to cure. Just one touch, say those who believe, and cancer might go into remission, or an injured knee might heal. Along the wall hang crutches that are no longer needed, material proof from those who say they've been helped.

"People discover that there's something special here when they come with an open heart and mind," said Rev. Jim Suntum, a priest at Chimayo.

Chimayo is a National Historic Landmark, described in the landmark citation as a "well-preserved, unrestored example of a small adobe church, notable for its original decorations, including numerous superb religious paintings." Some 200,000 people are estimated to visit each year, and Suntum says many of those visits occur during Easter Week. The Archdiocese of Santa Fe says Chimayo has been called the "Lourdes of America."

The history of el pocito goes back 200 years, when legend holds that a friar, performing penances, saw a strange light streaming from a hillside near the Santa Cruz River. The friar began to dig to find the source of the light, and soon uncovered a crucifix. The crucifix was taken to a nearby church several times, but according to the story, it kept mysteriously returning to the place where it was found.

If you go...

- Website: elsantuariodechimayo.us
- Hours: Open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. October to April and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. from May to September.

A chapel was built there in 1813, and followers have been returning to pray at el pocito ever since. They take so many cups of dirt to spread over foreheads, hearts and knees, that Chimayo officials must refill the pit periodically with replacement sand that's been blessed. Visitors can purchase small containers of sand for $3 to take to a sick relative, or order the sand from the shrine's website.

But the sites are not just for the faithful; they attract tourists as well. Jenny Hwa, 33, of Winston-Salem, N.C., stopped at the site in July during a cross-country trip. Not knowing the history, Hwa did not have "a lot of expectations" until she saw people around el pocito. "People were scooping it up like it was gold bars," said Hwa. "I can see how it can be powerful."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MATHEWINGRAM/FLICKR

JESSICA HOLMES: LAND O'LAKES REGION, ONT.

My favourite spot in Canada

BEST KNOWN FOR HER WORK ON ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FARCE, JESSICA HOLMES IS CURRENTLY STARRING IN ROSS PETTY'S HOLIDAY PANTO VERSION OF THE WIZARD OF OZ, AT TORONTO'S ELGIN THEATRE.

My family has been renting cottages in the Land O' Lakes region for more than 30 years. It's a tough area to describe, because the only towns nearby are likely ones too small to show up on most maps. So for arguments sake, let's just say it's in a heavily-treed area about three hours northeast of Toronto. Not to be mistaken for Muskoka, this area doesn't have five-star resorts. It's more like trailer parks and church bean bakes, but we decided it's home away from home for us.

Season was made for cookies

The holidays are all about tasty sweets and treats These can be frozen for up to 1 month

HOLIDAY HELPER

EMILY RICHARDS
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA

These cookies not only can be enjoyed fresh but they freeze well and are perfect to share at a cookie exchange.

Ingredients:

- 2 1/4 cups (550 mL) all purpose flour
- 1/3 cup (75 mL) unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) each baking powder and soda
- Pinch salt
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) butter
- 3/4 cup (175 mL) granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) sour cream
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) vanilla
- 1 tsp (5 mL) instant espresso powder
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) cocoa nibs
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) mini chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) icing sugar

Preparation:

1. In bowl, whisk flour, cocoa powder, baking powder, soda and salt.
2. In another bowl beat butter and sugar until fluffy. Beat in egg and sour cream. Stir espresso powder into vanilla, add to butter mix; beat to combine.
3. Stir in flour mix and stir until combined. Stir in cocoa nibs and chocolate chips until combined. Roll level tablespoon (15 mL) of dough into a ball and roll into icing sugar and place on parchment paper lined baking sheet. Bake in centre of 350 F (180 C) oven for about 10 minutes or until top is cracked and firm to the touch. Repeat with remaining dough. Let cool in pan on rack. **EMILY IS A HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR & CHEF (EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)**

Holiday prep

We're here to help

Every Wednesday until Christmas, Metro's Emily Richards will provide you tips to make the holiday whirlwind less stressful.

EMILY RICHARDS

This recipe makes about four dozen cookies.

Drink of the week

Clementine Rosemary Martini

- 2 oz dry gin
- 1 oz Lillet Blanc
- 1 clementine, quartered
- 1 sprig rosemary
- 1 tsp lemon simple syrup
- Candied lemon peel

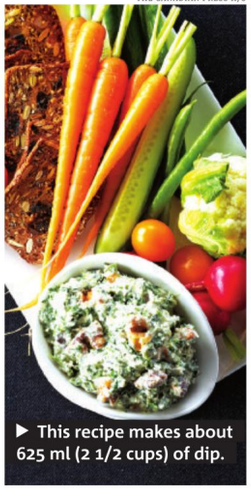
Muddle clementine, including peel, with needles from rosemary sprig. Add other ingredients, shake with ice, and strain into cold martini glass. Garnish with another sprig and a small amount of candied lemon peel.

Note: To make candied lemon peel and simple syrup, peel 3 lemons (avoiding white pith) and thinly slice. Boil strips with 500 ml water and 2 cups sugar until lemon turns translucent. Strain lemon out and let dry on baking tray. Add little water to leftover lemon syrup if needed. **JOE HOWELL, TORONTO BARTENDER**

Dip into a perfect holidays snack

You can feel good about serving this creamy Walnut Spinach Dip at your next get-together

THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O



This recipe makes about 625 ml (2 1/2 cups) of dip.

Stick to a healthy eating regimen even during the holidays with iron-rich walnut spinach dip made with low-fat yogurt, crumbled walnuts and chopped spinach.

Serve it with freshly cut vegetables and wholegrain crackers for a filling snack or as an eye-catching appetizer.

Ingredients:

- 1 pkg (300 g) frozen chopped spinach, thawed and well drained
- 250 ml (1 cup) pressed cottage cheese
- 250 ml (1 cup) walnut pieces, toasted
- 150 ml (2/3 cup) low-fat yogurt
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) freshly chopped dill
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) soy sauce
- 10 ml (2 tsp) Dijon mustard
- 5 ml (1 tsp) Worcestershire sauce
- 5 ml (1 tsp) celery salt
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) hot sauce
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) each onion and garlic powder
- Salt and pepper

Preparation:

1. In a bowl, stir together spinach, cottage cheese, walnuts, yogurt, dill, soy sauce, mustard, Worcestershire sauce, celery salt, hot sauce, onion and garlic powder until well combined. Add salt and pepper to taste. Cover and refrigerate in an airtight container for up to 1 week.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ CALIFORNIA WALNUTS, WALNUTINFO.COM/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS, PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CELEBRITY CHEF.

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Holiday bonus?

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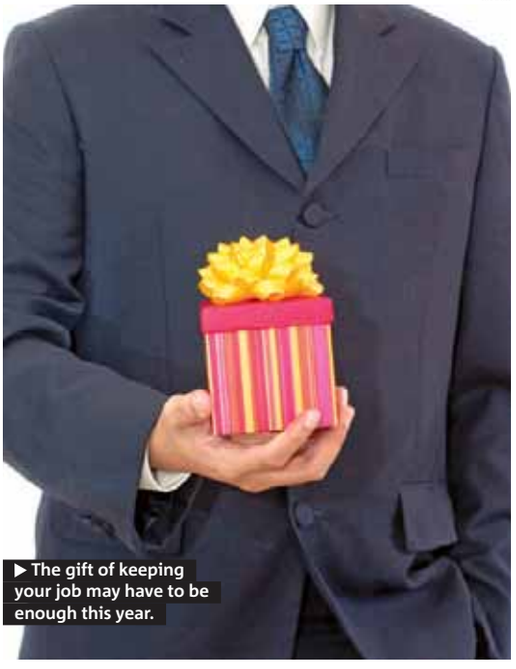
JULIA WEST
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA
MWN IN PHILADELPHIA

ISTOCK



▶ The gift of keeping your job may have to be enough this year.

When your job security is already on shaky ground, hinting at end-of-year bonuses in front of your boss may not be the best bet.

"For some companies, the economy is still dicey. For those that will give bonuses, the amounts will be all over the place," says Michael Galey, an attorney in the Philadelphia office of Fisher & Phillips, a national firm that represents employers.

Keep in mind that a bonus is just that: a little something extra that companies provide if they can. Your padded paycheck depends on your company's financial ability.

"As owner of Between the Bread, I have held back on giving bonuses for the past two years. And unfortunately I am not planning on giving bonuses this year either," says Ricky Eisen of this year's situation at his Manhattan catering company.

"The extremely difficult economic climate has necessitated the constant weighing and shifting of priorities and prompts questions like, 'Do we keep all of our staff employed? Do we let some go, and give modest bonuses to the remaining employees? Do we hold onto the cash we accrued over the year? Or do we give the cash as bonuses and start the year with less operating and emergency cash?'"

On the other hand, a study developed by Robert Half International polled 1,250 senior executives employed at firms that gave bonuses last year and found that of those interviewed, 30 per cent expected to give even bigger bonuses than they did last year.

Help wanted: Digital detectives

So you've been spending all your free time creeping on your acquaintances Why not make a job out of it?

JUDY WEIGHTMAN
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA
MWN IN PHILADELPHIA

▶ What do you see?

With more and more kinds of electronic gadgets for storing and manipulating data, experts in computer forensics need to deal with a lot more than just computers.

"Smartphones, iPads, tablets, GPS systems, game consoles, still and video cameras, the computers on cars — computer forensics techs are experts at extracting digital data so it can be used in court," explains Pamela King, director of the computer forensics program at Community College of Philadelphia.

The program, available at both the Center City and Northwest campuses, incorporates hands-on training. King says: "Students take classes in computer science and in criminal justice — and then specific computer forensics courses that bring these two fields together."

Students include people working in IT and paralegals who want to specialize in a growing field. There are also a fair number of career-changers, including people leaving the military.

"The combination of technology and law enforcement makes the field a good fit for them," King says.

Some graduates begin working as soon as they get their associate's degree. Others go on to complete bachelor's degrees, though there are only a few four-year programs in the area — including Drexel, Chestnut Hill College and Holy Family. "It's exciting that [CCP] is one of so few schools offering this training," King says.

BOTCH FIRING, PAY A PRICE

Context plays key role in case of employee dismissal

WORKPLACE LAW

DANIEL LUBLIN
DAN@CANADAEMPLOYMENTLAWYER.COM
TWITTER: @DANLUBLIN

When Rashid Balogun announced that he was "out of here" and then swiftly left the Prince George offices of Deloitte & Touche after a confrontational meeting with two of his bosses, they figured that he had just resigned. But in a legal twist that can only happen in workplace law, the court decided otherwise.

Soon after his hiring, Balogun believed he deserved a significant raise. However, according to his manager, his performance did not yet warrant more money.

The issue soon blossomed into a conflict. Before a performance review, Balogun was told that there were concerns with his performance and that he would not receive a raise. This did not sit well with Balogun. According to the judge, he became so fixated on his salary that he paid little attention to concerns that were raised about his performance.

During the performance review, Balogun was asked about his future at Deloitte. He swiftly replied that he was "out of here" before leaving the meeting and the workplace. Believing that Balogun had just resigned, Deloitte sent him a formal letter, indicating that he had "quit."

After a recent trial, a judge found that Balogun had not yet resigned when he left the office. Although Balogun's statement and actions could be consistent with a resignation, Deloitte failed to consider the context. When he left work, it was at the end of the workday, and Balogun was in a hurry to leave for the airport because he was beginning a vacation. In these circumstances, it was not clear whether Balogun was quitting, so by sending him a letter accusing him of resigning, Deloitte effectively fired him. Instead, Deloitte should have asked Balogun to confirm his alleged resignation in writing to eliminate any uncertainty. However, in my view, it was hoping he would never return. Agreeing with me, the court awarded him damages for wrongful dismissal.

Although Balogun won his case, by following these simple steps, the confusion could have been avoided: immediately protest a characterization that there has been a resignation, if you didn't intend to resign and resist taking any steps that can be construed as voluntarily withdrawing from the workplace, until you can seek legal advice. **DANIEL LUBLIN IS AN EMPLOYMENT LAWYER WITH WHITTEN & LUBLIN LLP.**

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STUDENT VOICE

ASAD CHISHTI
TALENTEGG.CA

The more I want something, the less I call it work.

There is, in my experience, no reason in this day and age for you to be working at a place or doing something you don't enjoy.

The career you do want to pursue requires now, more than ever, that you create your own experience.

Too many of my friends all across Canada are struggling after graduation to find work, struggling during university to find placements that aren't voluntary for their co-op terms, and are trying to find work in the summer and being turned down from hundreds of job postings relevant to their field of study.

As a second year engineering chemistry student at Queen's University, I'm not sure what the future holds for my career path.

Some of the graduates from my program go into consulting, some go into research and development, a few outliers become entrepreneurs — most return to school for graduate studies.

But it seems like to get a job, networking matters. The jobs that I've held have been both part-time and referred to me by people who worked there.

It is no surprise that fresh undergraduates are now competing not only among each other but also among more qualified, more experienced veterans of the job industry.

It's important to find an edge over the competition and to stand out by creating an outlet for your passion and future career. I believe we can take charge of our own future by getting involved now.

Because I think it's very important to dabble and supplement my studies with as many skills as possible, and I'm very involved in extra-curricular activities. I'm the assistant photo editor for the Queen's Journal, Canada's second oldest newspaper.

I help run an annual independently-organized TED talks event, TEDxQueensU.

Along with this, I've founded and am currently the chapter President of Journalists for Human Rights (JHR) Queen's University Chapter.

Employers need to look past the grades and the degrees. Students should be hired based on their ability to learn, not based on what they've already learned.

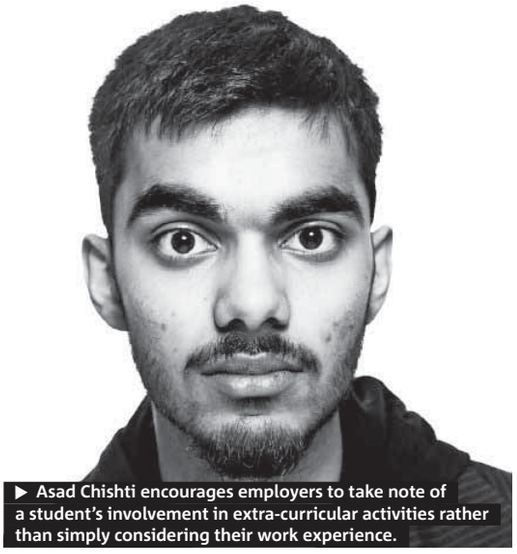
Watch out for the students who are already taking on different roles and establishing relationships. The university experience is not just about your transcript, it's about the people you meet and the opportunities you have as an individual to grow outside the classroom setting.

TALENTEGG.CA, CANADA'S ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADS, WANTS TO HEAR YOUR STUDENT VOICE. SHARE IT AT TALENTEGG.CA.

What I learned

Key take-aways from Asad's experience

- Don't be afraid to be non-traditional, to step outside of the classroom and learn from there.
- Your grades do matter of course, but university is also about the friends you find and the relationships that bind.
- Keep your options open, get involved early and if you can't find an opportunity, create one.



▶ Asad Chishti encourages employers to take note of a student's involvement in extra-curricular activities rather than simply considering their work experience.

Kingdom of the Netherlands

WANTED
(HIGH) SCHOOLS, TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Students can win an arty Dutch Vincent van Gogh bike and much more!

Vincent van Gogh goes to school

A Canada wide school project with great opportunities

Kingdom of the Netherlands | Kingdom of the Netherlands | Kingdom of the Netherlands | Kingdom of the Netherlands | Kingdom of the Ne

Ever heard of a guy called Vincent van Gogh? The famous Dutch artist who was born more than 150 years ago in the Netherlands and who became known as an innovator in the art world. If you have heard of him, did you ever wonder how it would be to follow in his footsteps and use your own creativity just as he did? The Netherlands Embassy and its network in Canada invite teachers and students to participate in the 'Vincent van Gogh goes to school' project, which will run from February – June 2012. The project is designed for children between the ages of 6 and 16 years old. Both elementary and high schools can join.

The school project coincides with Vincent's visit to Canada in the spring of 2012: the National Gallery of Canada, located in the capital Ottawa, will host 'Van Gogh: Up Close' from May 25 – September 3 (2012). It will be the first major Canadian exhibition of works by the famous Dutch artist for more than 25 years.

Useful teacher's kit
Join us right now and we will send a teacher's kit including the 'See and Do Children's Book' from Cecile de Bie and Martijn Leenen, a dvd about the life of 'Vincent van Gogh' to use in a class room setting. The teacher's kit will be distributed on a first come first served principle; last entries no later than January 17, 2012.

Learn, explore and experience
- **Learn** together with schools in the Netherlands that are participating in this project and would like to connect with schools in Canada.
- **Explore** possibilities of the 'Vincent van Gogh goes to school' project in your own class: it is not just about art per se. Van Gogh can be a history project, a biology project or even a language class.
- **Experience** the Netherlands and discover interesting facts about the Dutch, their country and the friendship with Canada.

Make – with your classmates and with the support of your teacher – an awesome painting of sunflowers; write a letter to Vincent; or, how about using your creativity to produce a movie, a rap, a comic, a poster, a board game or a picture? Increase your chances to win by uploading a video, a song, or a picture to the specially designed ivincentincanada Facebook page from the Netherlands Embassy. Students can also sign up individually, and will be organized in the appropriate age category. The Sun Flowers – age group 6 – 10; The Irises – age group 10 – 13 and The Wild Roses – age group 13 – 16.

Are you in?
For more information on this project , to register and to receive the kit, send an email to:
ott_ppo@minbuza.nl
For all the details about the contest:
scan the QR code or go to
Facebook.com/thenetherlandsincanada

Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands - www.dutchmissions.com

4 sports

Quoted

"He's not the only guy."

MIAMI MARLINS OWNER JEFFREY LORIA, SAYING THAT ALBERT PUJOLS, ABOVE, WAS NOT THE ONLY BIG NAME FREE AGENT THE CLUB WAS CHASING. BASEBALL'S NEW BIG FISH WERE THE TALK OF THE WINTER MEETINGS YESTERDAY, WITH TEAMS WONDERING HOW CLOSE THE MARLINS WERE TO AN AGREEMENT WITH PUJOLS ON A DEAL THAT COULD BE WORTH $200 MILLION OR MORE OVER 10 YEARS FOR THE THREE-TIME NL MVP.

Scan code for more sports news.

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Flames captain Jarome Iginla shoots on Hurricanes goalie Cam Ward in Calgary last night.

Hurricanes overcome by Flames' offensive storm

Calgary forward Morrison has breakout game after tough start to season

Brendan Morrison had two goals and two assists last night as the Calgary Flames had more than five goals in a game for the first time this season, beating the Carolina Hurricanes, 7-6.

Jarome Iginla had a pair of goals and an assist for Calgary (12-13-2), while Lee Stempniak scored and added an assist. Rene Bourque and Mikael Backlund had goals as well.

Eric Staal scored twice for Carolina (8-17-4), while Jiri Tlusty scored the Hurricanes' first goal of the night on a penalty shot. Chad LaRose, Tuomo Ruutu and Tim Brent also scored.

The Flames are 4-1-1 in their last six games.

The Hurricanes, winless in seven (0-6-1), play in Edmonton tonight as their four-game road trip continues.

FLAMES	'CANES
7	6

Morrison had been a healthy scratch the past five games but was put back into the lineup to replace Flames winger Curtis Glencross, who was out with the flu.

The 36-year-old took full advantage of the opportunity, skating in Glencross's place on the left wing on a line with Iginla and Olli Jokinen.

0-4

Carolina's recently hired head coach Kirk Muller has lost his first four games behind the Hurricanes bench.

The trio was Calgary's best line all night starting with their first shift when Morrison set up Jokinen, who was robbed by Cam Ward. On another close play right after, a near goal had to be reviewed by video replay.

Their next shift was just as good and more productive on the scoreboard with Morrison and Jokinen combining to set up Iginla in front for his eighth goal.

Calgary took a 3-0 lead 42 seconds into the second period when Morrison capped off a three-on-two rush, batting in a loose puck from the edge of the crease.

Morrison capped off his first two-goal game since Oct. 26, 2010 with a pinball-style goal 1:22 into the third period, which put the Flames ahead 5-2.

Morrison's slapshot from the wing deflected off Carolina defenceman Jamie McBain, ricocheted off the far goal post, went off the leg of Ward and trickled into the net.

It had been a tough year for Morrison who entered the night with one goal and no assists in 10 games.

Carolina mounted a comeback in the third period, scoring two times in the last minute, but it was too little too late as Staal's second of the night made it 7-6 with just five seconds left on the clock.

Players like NHL's plan to remake conferences

NHL players largely seem in favour of a proposed realignment plan that will require the support of their union before taking effect next season.

The major four-conference shakeup endorsed by the NHL's Board of Governors had players abuzz in dressing rooms around the league yesterday. Some were still getting a handle on what it meant and a few voiced concerns, but the overall reception was positive.

"It looks pretty fair," said Montreal Canadiens defenceman Hal Gill. "It's a little different. But it's not going to be perfect. Unfortunately, the map doesn't lend itself to perfect. You don't want to take away too many rivalries so you have to figure it out."

The aspect of the proposal that elicited the most excitement from players was a new schedule matrix that includes a game in every city around the league.

Since the lockout ended in 2005, teams in the Eastern and Western Conference haven't played each other home and away each season.

"I've played almost 100 games in the league and there are still teams I haven't played yet," said Ottawa Senators forward Zack Smith. "I think it's good to get around and see everybody and go to every city. I think fans will really enjoy it as well. They get to see a lot of the stars in the East, but this way they'll be able to see some of those guys in the West."

One area of concern is the fact that two conferences feature eight teams while the two others have seven.

That represents a significant competitive disadvantage since the same number of teams (four) will qualify for the playoffs in each conference.

"Personally, I'd like to have the same shot at making the playoffs as everybody else," said Flames winger Alex Tanguay.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

VIDEO TEACHES SMART HOCKEY

EDUCATION CAN LEAD TO PREVENTION

That's one of the main messages being shared across the country by ThinkFirst, a national non-profit organization dedicated to the prevention of brain and spinal cord injuries.

Thanks to the launch of the ThinkFirst Smart Hockey video, minor hockey players and coaches now have an easy resource to learn how to prevent, identify and return to play after a concussion.

"I think any parent or child that plays hockey should watch the video," said Darrell Herrick, co-ordinator of the Calgary chapter of ThinkFirst. "It's just so valuable to understand how to play hockey smart."

During the Scotiabank Girls HockeyFest at the Scotiabank Saddledome on Nov. 6, Herrick was on hand to man an information booth.

"They played the Smart Hockey video before Cassie Campbell talked," Herrick said. "The one big area is we need education. When players and coaches understand concussions, I think we see a decrease in the plays that create concussions."

Campbell appears in the video along with fellow hockey players Tessa Bonhomme, Caroline Ouellette, John Tavares, Patrice Bergeron and Tyler Myers.

Dr. Pat McDonald, who is the director of the Manitoba chapter of ThinkFirst, said he was happy that members of Canada's national women's team were involved with the video in addition to NHL players.

"It's not just boys' hockey, it's girls' hockey," McDonald said. "I think we have to make sure that we're being role models to everybody."

McDonald referred to the Smart Hockey video as an excellent learning tool.

"Sometimes we'll get kids who don't even think of anything of when they were hit and then a couple days later they're nauseated and they've got headaches and dizziness," he said. "My best advice is that if they've got any doubt at all, to get it checked out by a physician."

The Smart Hockey video, booklet and concussion kit can all be downloaded at thinkfirst.ca/programs/hockey.

– By Laurence Heinen

PROACTIVE APPROACH

After suffering a devastating brain injury nine years ago, Darrell Herrick took it upon himself to spread the word about injury prevention.

While cycling to work, Herrick ran into a rope that was hanging across a downtown bike path.

"I got flipped off my bike backwards," explained Herrick, who is now the Calgary chapter coordinator of ThinkFirst. "I hit my head a couple times. Good thing I had a helmet on."

Herrick had trouble walking after the incident and said his balance was off for two years.

"When I finally got enough faculties back, I knew I needed to do some education," who now makes between 60 to 100 appearances a year to talk about the prevention of brain and spinal cord injuries.

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NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Pittsburgh	28	16	8	2	2	86	69	36	8-2-2-0	8-6-0-2	5-4-1-0	L1
d-Boston	26	17	8	0	1	89	54	35	10-5-0-1	7-3-0-0	8-1-0-1	L1
d-Florida	27	15	8	1	3	78	69	34	6-2-1-3	9-6-0-0	6-3-1-0	W2
NY Rangers	24	15	6	1	2	71	55	33	7-2-0-1	8-4-1-1	7-3-0-0	L1
Philadelphia	25	15	7	2	1	90	73	33	6-4-1-1	9-3-1-0	7-3-0-0	W2
Toronto	28	15	10	2	1	89	90	33	6-4-2-1	9-6-0-0	5-4-1-0	L1
Buffalo	26	14	11	0	1	72	69	29	6-8-0-1	8-3-0-0	4-5-0-1	W1
Ottawa	27	13	11	2	1	83	91	29	7-4-0-1	6-7-2-0	6-2-2-0	W1
Winnipeg	27	12	11	3	1	77	83	28	8-4-0-0	4-7-3-1	7-2-1-0	W3
Montreal	28	11	11	2	4	69	72	28	4-5-2-3	7-6-0-1	2-4-2-2	L1
Washington	26	13	12	0	1	79	84	27	9-4-0-1	4-8-0-0	3-7-0-0	L1
New Jersey	26	13	12	0	1	65	74	27	5-4-0-1	8-8-0-0	5-5-0-0	W1
Tampa Bay	27	11	14	0	2	70	89	24	7-4-0-0	4-10-0-2	3-7-0-0	L5
NY Islanders	25	9	11	3	2	57	79	23	6-6-2-0	3-5-1-2	5-3-1-1	W2
Carolina	29	8	17	2	2	72	101	20	5-9-0-2	3-8-2-0	2-8-0-0	L7

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Minnesota	27	17	7	2	1	69	60	37	10-4-1-0	7-3-1-1	9-1-0-0	W4
d-Chicago	28	16	8	1	3	93	88	36	8-2-0-3	8-6-1-0	5-4-0-1	L1
d-Phoenix	27	15	9	1	2	74	67	33	7-5-1-1	8-4-0-1	6-4-0-0	W2
Detroit	26	16	9	1	0	77	59	33	10-2-1-0	6-7-0-0	7-3-0-0	L2
St. Louis	27	15	9	0	3	66	60	33	9-3-0-1	6-6-0-2	6-2-0-2	W1
Vancouver	26	15	10	0	1	83	67	31	7-4-0-1	8-6-0-0	7-3-0-0	W1
Dallas	26	15	10	0	1	69	72	31	9-4-0-1	6-6-0-0	4-5-0-1	L1
Los Angeles	26	13	9	2	2	60	58	30	8-7-0-1	5-2-2-1	6-3-1-0	L1
San Jose	23	14	8	1	0	67	56	29	7-5-1-0	7-3-0-0	6-4-0-0	L1
Edmonton	27	13	11	0	3	76	71	29	7-4-0-2	6-7-0-1	4-5-0-1	L1
Nashville	27	12	11	3	1	70	74	28	4-5-2-1	8-6-1-0	3-6-1-0	L2
Colorado	27	13	13	1	0	75	78	27	7-9-0-0	6-4-1-0	5-5-0-0	W3
Calgary	27	12	13	1	1	67	78	26	6-5-1-1	6-8-0-0	5-4-0-1	W1
Anaheim	26	7	14	2	3	60	87	19	5-9-1-0	2-5-1-3	1-7-1-1	L2
Columbus	27	8	16	0	3	65	90	19	5-7-0-1	2-9-0-2	5-5-0-0	W1

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results
New Jersey 3 Toronto 2 (OT)
Winnipeg 2 Boston 1
Calgary 7 Carolina 6
Columbus 3 Montreal 2 (SO)
St. Louis 3 Detroit 2
Phoenix 3 Nashville 2
N.Y. Islanders 5 Tampa Bay 1
Colorado at Vancouver
Los Angeles at Anaheim
Minnesota at San Jose

Monday's results
Toronto 4 N.Y. Rangers 2
Ottawa 4 Tampa Bay 2
Boston 3 Pittsburgh 1
Florida 5 Washington 4
Phoenix 4 Chicago 3 (SO)

Tonight's games
All times Eastern
Washington at Ottawa, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.
Carolina at Edmonton, 9:30 p.m.

Tomorrow's games
Florida at Boston, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Chicago at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Nashville at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Anaheim at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Colorado at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Minnesota at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.
Dallas at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

BLUE JACKETS 3, HABS 2 (SO)

First Period
1. Columbus, Prospal 7 (Johnson) 2:03
2. Montreal, Kostitsyn 8 (Cammalleri) 19:58

Penalty — Gorges Mtl (tripping) 16:00.

Second Period
3. Columbus, Umberger 4 (Nikitin, Pahlsson) 11:14

Penalties — Huselius Clb (tripping) 2:12, Diaz Mtl (hooking) 5:09, Boll Clb (charging) 8:10, Dorsett Clb (tripping) 15:28, Gorges Mtl (hooking) 19:14.

Third Period
4. Montreal, Gionta 8 (Plekanec, Emelin) 18:39

Penalties — None.

Overtime
No Scoring.

Penalties — None.

Shootout
Columbus wins 1-0
Montreal (0) — Desharnais, miss; Pacioretty, miss; Gionta, miss; Columbus (1) — Johansen, miss; Nash, goal.

Shots on goal

Columbus	10	8	8	2	—28
Montreal	7	4	8	1	—20

Goal — Columbus: Sanford (W,5-3-2). Montreal: Price: (SOL,10-8-6).

Power plays (goals-chances) — Columbus: 0-4 Montreal: 0-2.

Referees — David Banfield, Dave Jackson.

Linesmen — Steve Barton, Andy McElman.

Attendance — 21,273 (21,273) at Montreal.

DEVILS 3, MAPLE LEAFS 2 (OT)

First Period
1. New Jersey, Kovalcuk 7 (Sykora, Henrique) 5:03 (pp)
2. New Jersey, Clarkson 8 (Parise, Elias) 8:59 (pp)

Penalties — Liles Tor (high-sticking) 3:09, Connolly Tor (slashing) 8:07, Liles Tor (interference) 19:51.

Second Period
3. Toronto, Kessel 17 (Lupul, Schenn) 11:29

Penalties — Sykora NJ (hooking) 2:09, Kulemin Tor (holding) 14:18.

Third Period
4. Toronto, Frattin 3 (Grabovski, Franson) 1:56

Penalty — Elias NJ (slashing) 17:44.

Overtime
5. New Jersey, Clarkson 9 (Zubrus) 2:40

Penalties — None.

Shots on goal

New Jersey	11	5	9	1	—26
Toronto	4	16	10	1	—31

Goal — New Jersey: Brodeur (W,6-7-0); Toronto: Reimer (L,4-1-2). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — New Jersey: 2-4; Toronto: 0-2.

Attendance — 19,513 (18,819) at Toronto.

JETS 2, BRUINS 1

First Period
1. Winnipeg, Ladd 9 (Oduya, Pavelec) 18:22

Penalty — Slater Wpg (slashing) 3:40.

Second Period — No Scoring.

Penalties — Klingberg Wpg (holding) 3:17, Stapleton Wpg (hooking) 13:41, Bergeron Bos (hooking) 15:45, Krejci Bos (slashing) 18:16.

Third Period
2. Boston, Thornton 2 (Paille, Campbell) 3:16
3. Winnipeg, Little 8, 4:50

Penalties — Krejci Bos, Bogosian Wpg (roughing) 4:44, Pouliot Bos (tripping) 9:17.

Shots on goal

Boston	10	17	13		—40
Winnipeg	11	10	14		—35

Goal — Boston: Rask (L,4-4-1): Winnipeg: Pavelec (W,10-9-4). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Boston: 0-3; Winnipeg: 0-3.

Attendance — 15,004 (15,004) at Winnipeg.

FLAMES 7, HURRICANES 6

First Period
1. Calgary, Iginla 8 (Jokinen, Morrison) 3:07
2. Calgary, Stempniak 7 (Comeau, Bouwmeester) 18:51.

Penalties — Backlund Cal (holding) 3:44, Piskula Cal (tripping) 8:35, Gleason Car (interference) 11:18.

Second Period
3. Calgary, Morrison 2 (Jokinen) 0:42
4. Carolina, Tlusty 6, 5:39 (penalty shot)
5. Carolina, Brent 3 (Staal, Kaberle) 13:16
6. Calgary, Bourque 14:06

Penalty — Horak Cal (goaltender interference) 15:11.

Third Period
7. Calgary, Morrison 3 (Iginla, Brodie) 1:22
8. Carolina, McBain 3, 6:41
9. Calgary, Backlund 2 (Stempniak, Tanguay) 10:57 (pp)
10. Carolina, Staal 6, 13:42
11. Calgary, Iginla 9 (Morrison, Hannan) 18:51 (en)
12. Carolina, Larose 7 (Brent, Ponikarovsky) 19:28
13. Carolina, Staal 7 (McBain, Kaberle) 19:55

Penalty — Jokinen Car (tripping) 9:40.

Shots on goal

Carolina	9	12	13		—34
Calgary	14	11	10		—35

Goal (shots-saves) — Carolina: Ward (L,8-13-3)(32-26), Murphy (10:57 third; 1-1); Calgary: Kiprusoff (W,12-9-1). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Carolina: 0-4; Calgary: 1-2.

Attendance — 19,289 (19,289) at Calgary.

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	9	3	0	.750	362	247
N.Y. Jets	7	5	0	.583	290	260
Buffalo	5	7	0	.417	278	304
Miami	4	8	0	.333	246	220

SOUTH	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	9	3	0	.750	310	189
Tennessee	7	5	0	.583	249	229
Jacksonville	3	9	0	.250	152	238
Indianapolis	0	12	0	.000	174	358

NORTH	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	9	3	0	.750	296	192
Pittsburgh	9	3	0	.750	268	195
Cincinnati	7	5	0	.583	266	250
Cleveland	4	8	0	.333	175	240

WEST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	7	5	0	.583	256	292
Oakland	7	5	0	.583	274	308
San Diego	5	7	0	.417	287	289
Kansas City	5	7	0	.417	163	268

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	7	5	0	.583	283	244
N.Y. Giants	6	6	0	.500	287	315
Philadelphia	4	8	0	.333	271	282
Washington	4	8	0	.333	202	256

SOUTH	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New Orleans	9	3	0	.750	393	269
Atlanta	7	5	0	.583	269	244
Carolina	4	8	0	.333	290	324
Tampa Bay	4	8	0	.333	218	329

NORTH	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Green Bay	12	0	0	1.000	420	262
Detroit	7	5	0	.583	333	277
Chicago	7	5	0	.583	291	242
Minnesota	2	10	0	.167	246	330

WEST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-San Francisco	10	2	0	.833	288	161
Seattle	5	7	0	.417	216	246
Arizona	5	7	0	.417	232	269
St. Louis	2	10	0	.167	140	296

y-clinched division

Monday's result
San Diego 38 Jacksonville 14

Tomorrow's game
All times Eastern
Cleveland at Pittsburgh, 8:20 p.m.

Sunday's games
New Orleans at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Kansas City at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at Detroit, 1 p.m.
Houston at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Atlanta at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Philadelphia at Miami, 1 p.m.
New England at Washington, 1 p.m.
San Francisco at Arizona, 4:05 p.m.
Chicago at Denver, 4:05 p.m.
Buffalo at San Diego, 4:15 p.m.
Oakland at Green Bay, 4:15 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Dallas, 8:20 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 12
St. Louis at Seattle, 8:30 p.m.

SOCCER

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

(Home teams listed first; x — advances)

FIRST ROUND

GROUP A

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Bayern Munich	5	4	1	0	11	4	13
Napoli	5	2	2	1	8	6	8
Manchester City	5	2	1	2	7	6	7
Villarreal	5	0	0	5	2	12	0

Today's games
Manchester City (Eng.) vs. Bayern Munich (Ger.)
Villarreal (Spain) vs. Napoli (Italy)

GROUP B

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Inter Milan	5	3	1	1	7	5	10
Trabzonspor	5	1	3	1	3	5	6
Lille	5	1	2	2	6	6	5
CSKA Moscow	5	1	2	2	7	7	5

Today's games
Lille (France) vs. Trabzonspor (Turkey)
Inter Milan (Ita.) vs. CSKA Moscow (Rus.)

GROUP C

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Benfica	5	2	3	0	7	4	9
Manchester Un.	5	2	3	0	10	6	9
FC Basel	5	2	2	1	9	9	8
Otelul Galati	5	0	0	5	3	10	0

Today's games
FC Basel (Swi.) vs. Manchester Un. (Eng.)
Benfica (Port.) vs. Otelul Galati (Roman.)

GROUP D

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Real Madrid	5	5	0	0	16	2	15
Ajax	5	2	2	1	6	3	8
Lyon	5	1	2	2	2	6	5
Dinamo Zagreb	5	0	0	5	2	15	0

Today's games
Dinamo Zagreb (Croatia) vs. Lyon (Fra.)
Ajax (Neth.) vs. Real Madrid (Spain)

GROUP E

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Bayer Leverksn	6	3	1	2	8	8	12
x-Chelsea	6	3	2	1	13	4	11
Valencia	6	2	2	2	12	7	8
Genk	6	0	3	3	2	16	3

Yesterday's results
Chelsea (England) 3 Valencia (Spain) 0
Genk (Belg.) 1 Bayer Leverkusen (Ger.) 1

GROUP F

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Arsenal	6	3	2	1	7	6	11
x-Marseille	6	3	1	2	7	4	10
Olympiakos	6	3	0	3	8	6	9
Borussia Drtmnd	6	1	1	4	6	12	4

Yesterday's results
Olympiakos (Greece) 3 Arsenal (Eng.) 1
Borussia Dortmund (Ger.) 2 Marseille (Fra.) 3

GROUP G

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-APOEL	6	2	3	1	6	6	9
Zenit St. Ptrsbrg	6	2	3	1	7	5	9
FC Porto	6	2	2	2	7	7	8
Shakhtar Donetsk	6	1	2	3	6	8	5

Yesterday's results
FC Porto (Por.) 0 Zenit St. Petersburg (Ukr.) 0
APOEL (Cyp.) 0 Shakhtar Donetsk (Rus.) 2

GROUP H

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Barcelona	6	5	1	0	20	4	16
x-AC Milan	6	2	3	1	11	8	9
Viktoria Plzen	6	1	2	3	4	11	5
BATE Borisov	6	0	2	4	2	14	2

Yesterday's results
Barcelona (Spn.) 4 BATE Borisov (Belar.) 0
Viktoria Plzen (Czech) 2 AC Milan (Italy) 2

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BOSTON RED SOX—Agreed to terms with LHP Andrew Miller on a one-year contract.
CLEVELAND INDIANS—Designated RHP Hector Rondon for assignment. Added OF Grady Sizemore to the 40-man roster.
MINNESOTA TWINS—Traded RHP Kevin Slowey to Colorado for a player to be named.
TAMPA BAY RAYS—Agreed to terms with INF Matt Mangini, 1B Juan Miranda, RHP Jhonny Nunez and RHP Ricky Orta on minor league contracts.
TORONTO BLUE JAYS—Acquired RHP Sergio Santos from the Chicago White Sox for RHP Nestor Molina.

FOOTBALL

CFL

SASKATCHEWAN ROUGHRIDERS—Released LB Barrin Simpson, signed LB Maurice Lloyd.

NFL

LEAGUE OFFICE—Suspended Washington TE Fred Davis, Washington T Trent Williams and Seattle G John Moffitt for four games each for violating the league's substance abuse policy.
HOUSTON TEXANS—Released QB Kellen Clemens. Placed P Brett Hartmann on injured reserve.

HOCKEY

NHL

LEAGUE OFFICE—Suspended Nashville F Jordin Tootoo for two games, without pay, for charging Buffalo G Ryan Miller during a Dec. 3 game.
BUFFALO SABRES—Recalled D Joe Finley from Rochester (AHL).
CAROLINA HURRICANES—Recalled G Mike Murphy from Charlotte (AHL).
PHOENIX COYOTES—Assigned F Patrick O'Sullivan to Portland (AHL).
TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING—Recalled D Evan Oberg from Norfolk (AHL).
WINNIPEG JETS—Claimed F Ben Maxwell off waivers from Anaheim and assigned him to St. John's (AHL). Activated D Brett Festerling from the injured reserve list and assigned him to St. John's.

AHL

SAN ANTONIO RAMPAGE—Announced Florida (NHL) assigned G Jacob Markstrom to the team. Assigned F Jonathan Hazen to Cincinnati (ECHL).

SOCCER

MLS

CHICAGO FIRE—Agreed to terms with MF Logan Pause on a two-year contract extension through 2013.
CHIVAS USA—Re-signed G Dan Kennedy to a multiyear contract.
COLORADO RAPIDS—Announced the resignation of managing director Jeff Plush.
VANCOUVER WHITECAPS—Agreed to terms with MF Young-Pyo Lee.

NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE

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[illegible]

The base 328i sedan's previous 230-horsepower inline six-cylinder has been replaced by a 240-horsepower 2.0-litre turbocharged four-cylinder.

The powerplant, which is also showing up in other BMW products, including the larger 5 Series and Z4 roadster, makes 260 pound-feet of torque and can propel the 3 Series sedan to 100 km/h in about six seconds, which is just a touch longer than the 335i's time. That model retains its 300-horsepower six-cylinder turbocharged engine.

Dynamics Control

Standard on all models is a Driving Dynamics Control with four different settings, according to how vigorously you wish to pilot your Bimmer. The most fuel-efficient setting is the ECO PRO mode that, when activated, cuts the horsepower to save fuel (as much as 20 per cent, according to BMW). In ECO PRO, a special instrument-panel display indicates how far the 3's range has been extended.

Fuel efficiency

An electric air conditioning compressor functions on a demand-only basis and a new feature shuts off the engine when you're stopped at intersections, red lights and other gridlock-related pauses, then instantly fires it up again when it's time to roll.

To offset the added power needs, the 3 Series features Brake Energy Regeneration. This system converts the kinetic energy produced when coasting or braking into electrical energy, which is then fed to the battery.

▶ Trust BMW to find a way to deal with restrictions while still providing a better car. But can the 3 Series please everyone?

BMW's franchise player hopes to remain a leader

MALCOLM GUNN
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Arriving in early 2012, the car that's literally "The Franchise" for BMW seems headed in an entirely new direction.

If nothing else, the 3 Series has kept up with the times, which call for significant improvements in fuel economy as well as a treadlightly footprint that reaffirms and enhances BMW's environmental awareness.

At the same time, BMW must maintain the passion and performance that has helped its star performer maintain its top-rung status.

The 2012 3 Series walks the walk in fine style. The sleeker-looking sedan is nearly nine centimetres longer and about five centimetres wider overall.

The changes to the car's basic shape mean a low-slung appearance, especially the front end that's more aerodynamic than the 2011 version.

But important for those who appreciate unrestricted views of the passing scenery, the 3 Series maintains its sensible low-waist, tall-window design along with thin roof and door pillars.

In an ever-changing environment — business and otherwise — the BMW 3 Series has adapted while still giving drivers precisely what they expect: a car that keeps up with times and continues as a technology, performance and fashion leader.

BMW 3 Series

What you should know about the 2012 BMW 3 Series sedan:

- **Type:** Four-door, rear-wheel-drive entry-luxury sedan.
- **Engines (hp):** 2.0-litre DOHC I4, turbocharged (240); 3.0-litre DOHC I6, turbocharged (300).
- **Transmission:** Six-speed manual; eight-speed automatic (opt.).
- **Market position:** BMW's range of 3 Series offerings are considered among the best entry-luxury sedans on the market and are frequently used by competing automakers as benchmarks for similarly targeted automobiles.
- **Mileage:** L/100 km (city/hwy) 11.0/6.5 (2.0, AT, est.).

▶ Extra distance between the front and rear wheels means more cabin room, which is welcome because the 3 Series is not a very big car.

5 drive

By comparison

Mercedes-Benz C-Class
Base price: $38,000
Classy sedan offers something for everyone in content and performance.

Audi A4
Base price: $39,300
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Kicking off Canada's motorcycle show season

AUTO PILOT

MIKE GOETZ
DRIVE
@METRONEWS.CA

What can you do if you're a motorcycle enthusiast, but the weather's colder and bleaker than the heart of a Wall Street CEO? Head to a motorcycle show.

Curiously, you can also head to a motorcycle show, if you're a beef jerky enthusiast. I don't know why beef jerky vendors always set up at the edges of any motorcycle show floor, but they do, and God bless them and their dedication to the meat arts.

This winter's motorcycle/jerky show season starts this weekend in Toronto. The action will take place in the South Building of the Metro Convention Centre, from Friday, Dec. 9 to Sunday, Dec. 11.

This is the show run by the manufacturers, via its Motorcycle and Moped Industry Council (MMIC). After Toronto, the MMIC show makes stops in Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, Quebec, Moncton and Montreal.

Avid motorcycle types know that Toronto hosts two major motorcycle shows.

The other one happens after the New Year, bills itself as the Supershow, and takes over the International Centre by the airport. No sense arguing over which one rules, let's just revel in the fact that we have two high quality cyclefests to check out when it's too chilly to ride.

Topping the list of bikes I want to check out at this weekend's show is Norton's addition to their Commando 961 line up — the Cafe Racer. Not quite as pretty as the original, but pretty darn close.

Retro is big business these days, but especially in the motorcycle industry, where the average buyer is in their mid-forties!

Where are the younger riders?

I put that question to Neil Graham, editor of Cycle Canada. While he is not sure where they are, or how big a group they currently comprise in the marketplace, he is "encouraged" at least by the industry's efforts to reach out to them. He cites all the new small, entry-level bikes currently in the marketplace. Bikes like Honda's CBR125R and CBR250R, Kawasaki's Ninja 250R and Ninja 400R, and the just released Suzuki TU250.

Women buyers are also still scarce on the ground. But Graham believes the number, however small, is at least trending up. No surprise then that the MMIC show in Toronto is "young rider" and "female rider" friendly.

She Rides Night (on Friday evening) will be a celebration of women who ride or who are considering taking up the sport.

And the Yamaha Riding Academy will be on site, to give 6-12 year olds a spin on a Yamaha TT-R offroad motorcycle, and to teach the older-folk (16 and up) how to ride a scooter. (Yamaha will also give away a motorcycle or ATV to the lucky winner of a show floor draw.)

But rest assured there are plenty of testosterone-friendly events and bikes too. Harley-Davidson will role out its heavy metal thunder, and also present an autograph session with UFC fighters Jake Shields and Brendan Schaub, and "Octagon Girl" Brittney Palmer. BMW will show off the S1000RR superbike and its new line of super scooters — the C600 Sport, and the C650T.

Honda will bring its new NC700 parallel twin, and the beautiful MV Augusta F3 675 will make its first Canadian appearance at the show.

Those are just a few of the cool bikes that make the show scene this weekend. According to MMIC there will be over 140 exhibitors. So surely something for everybody then, whatever your budget, desires, or meat eating tendencies.

The MV Augusta F3 675 is set to make its first Canadian appearance this weekend in Toronto.

Sked

MMIC Motorcycle Show Schedule

- **Toronto** Dec. 9-11, 2011, Metro Toronto Convention Centre.
- **Calgary** Jan. 6-8, 2012, BMO Centre Stampede Park.
- **Edmonton** Jan. 13-15, Expo Centre, Northlands.
- **Vancouver** Jan. 19-22, Tradex Exhibition Centre, Abbotsford.
- **Quebec City** Feb. 3-5, Centre de foires de Quebec (site ExpoCite).
- **Moncton** Feb 10-12, Moncton Coliseum Complex.
- **Montreal** Feb 24-26, Palais des congres de Montreal.

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Outback looks like a sensible used CUV

SECOND GEAR

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

The Outback is Subaru's shot at vehicles like the Honda CR-V, Toyota RAV4 and Ford Escape.

With its update for 2010, the 2005 to 2009 generation of this popular crossover is now a full member of the used marketplace.

A car-like and wagon-oriented vehicle, it offered up the utility of a station wagon, the ground-clearance of a small SUV and the driving dynamics of a sedan.

2005 to 2009 Subaru Outback

Engines

Outback was standard with a 2.5-litre boxer four-cylinder or turbocharged version thereof, with 170 or 250 horsepower, respectively. A three-litre flat-six with 250 horsepower was also available. All-wheel drive was standard on all models.

What owners like

Outback drivers say they enjoy good fuel economy, steady and sure-footed traction in all conditions, a high-utility cabin and good ride quality. Headroom and outward visibility are also highly rated.

What owners dislike

Complaints deal with sluggish performance on four-cylinder, automatic-equipped models, as well as a tight rear seat, a "cheap" interior feel, and soft handling.

Common issues

If applicable, have the turbocharger system checked for signs of wear, ensuring the vehicle doesn't smoke and hasn't got excessive oil deposits in the charge piping — which could reference worn-out turbo seals. A Subaru mechanic can help here. On any Outback model, check the differentials and transaxle assembly for signs of oily leakage. A check-engine light, possibly accompanied by improperly functioning cruise control, could be caused by a bad engine control sensor.

Verdict

Outback appears to be a largely reliable and well-enjoyed vehicle for families, active couples and busy single folks alike. A well-maintained model should provide reliable, year-round performance.

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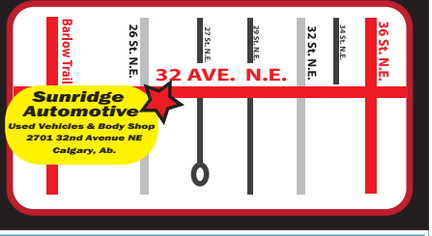

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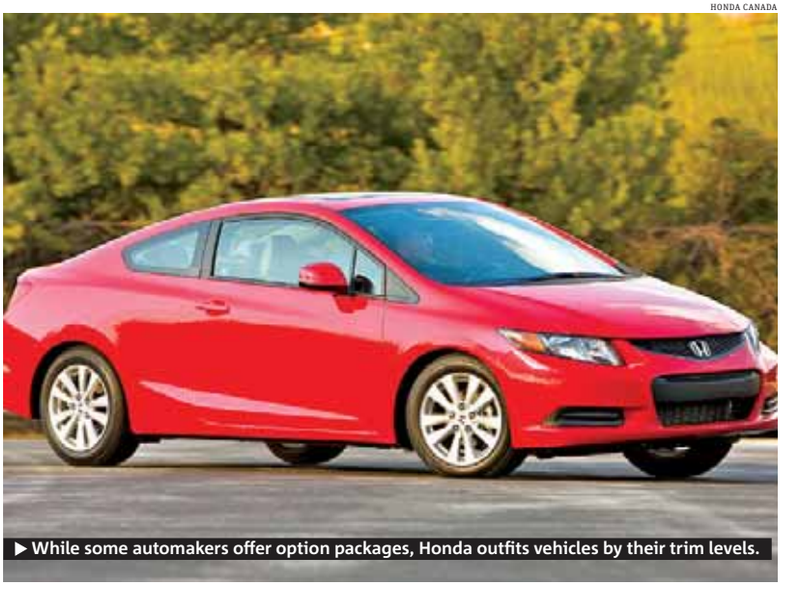


▶ While some automakers offer option packages, Honda outfits vehicles by their trim levels.

Adding the options that customers want

Fast-developing electronics can be tricky for automakers

DRIVING FORCE

JIL McINTOSH
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

At one time, features like air conditioning, power windows and keyless entry were expensive options on vehicles. Today they're standard on most, and automakers are now offering such items as rain-sensing wipers, DVD players and ventilated seats as add-ons.

"Everything is focused on what the customers want, and a huge amount of research is done to determine what equipment customers expect and what they're prepared to pay for it," says Jerry Chenkin, executive vice-president of Honda Canada.

"We price out vehicles accordingly, and if the value is not seen by the customers, they'll vote with their chequebooks."

A problem for automakers is the "wow factor," Chenkin says. A feature impresses buyers when it first comes out, but the wow factor disappears very quickly, he says, citing navigation systems and voice-activated systems as the last "huge wow" that existed.

"We're now at the point where people are almost expecting that in the higher trim levels. People are used to the speed with which technology is being developed, so nothing is wow for very long.

"As an auto manufacturer, you keep innovating, because one of the opportunities to distinguish yourself from other manufacturers is those kinds of value-added items in the vehicle. But the advantage is very short-lived because everybody starts to introduce the same kind of items very quickly."

While some companies offer option packages, Honda outfits vehicles by their trim levels.

"People will pay for the step up because it's a package of things," Chenkin says.

The company used to offer a base Civic and then a trim level that only added air conditioning, "but once people start to step up, they want more than just A/C. They want more of the convenience features, such as keyless entry and other equipment."

The company is constantly looking at consumer research and adding or deleting items as customers' tastes change.

The biggest surprise was leather upholstery in upscale models, Chenkin says.

"The demand for leather far exceeded anyone's expectations. In our Acura line-up we launched the Legend in both cloth and leather, and we found out very quickly that people don't want cloth if they're driving a luxury vehicle."

Electronics are among the biggest headaches. It takes five to six years to design a new car model, while electronics advance about every five to six months.

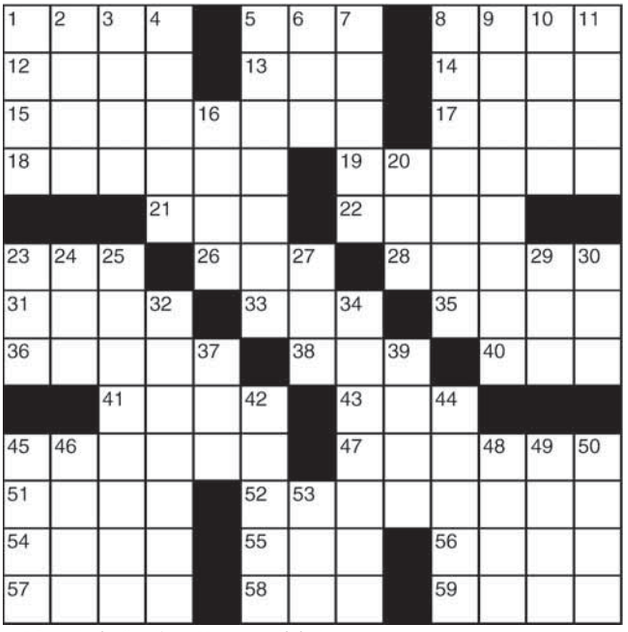
"Electronics are actually speeding up obsolescence, and I'm not sure how people are going to keep up," Chenkin says.

"I think we're past CDs now. A USB port and the technology that plugs into it, that's the kind of flexibility the industry will need."

$300

Airbags were a tough sell when introduced. A passenger side airbag was a $300 option when first introduced on Civic, but almost no one ordered it.

Crossword



Across

1 Houston acronym
5 Sternward
8 Streetcar
12 Winged
13 — goo gai pan
14 Like a moray
15 End of an illness
17 Performances
18 Sycophants
19 Implant
21 Help
22 Entrance
23 Melody
26 Allow
28 Wild West show
31 "Star —"
33 Flop
35 Ginormous
36 Unspoken
38 Wager
40 Decay
41 Rhyming tributes
43 Airport overseer (Abbr.)
45 Move up and down
47 Busy
51 Gumbo need
52 Flinched
54 Nasty stinger
55 Cistern
56 Journalist Lisa
57 Caustic chemicals
58 Acapulco gold
59 London gallery name

Down

1 — a soul (nobody)
2 Sheltered
3 Pouches
4 Scent
5 Rewrote the Constitution
6 Supportive of
7 Monkeyed (with)
8 Quaint restaurant
9 Flute's cousin
10 Sax range
11 1990s video game
16 Bride's cover
20 Neither partner
23 Lawyer (Abbr.)
24 Playwright Levin
25 Source of help
27 Bathroom fixture
29 Id counterpart
30 Morsel for Dobbin
32 Abducts
34 Actually
37 Sleuth, for short
39 Mexican entree
42 Electronic control system, briefly
44 At an angle
45 Cheek by —
46 Fine
48 Hip bones
49 Outlet
50 Advantage
53 Listener

▶ Yesterday's answer

L	A	M	E		P	L	Y		W	A	L	K
E	V	I	L		L	I	E		I	R	O	N
W	I	L	L	I	A	M	S		L	E	G	O
D	D	T		D	I	E		B	L	A	S	T
			W	E	T		P	O	I			
E	L	V	I	S		Q	U	O	N	D	A	M
M	O	I	L		K	E	G		G	A	Z	E
S	T	A	L	K	E	D		E	L	B	O	W
			P	A	Y		H	A	Y			
A	A	R	O	N		N	O	R		S	H	E
B	L	O	W		W	I	L	L	I	W	A	W
E	A	S	E		A	C	E		F	I	R	E
T	E	A	R		S	K	Y		A	M	P	S

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Sudoku

			5	4		8	2	9
				8			1	7
		5				6		
6			2				8	
		1				3		
	9				3			6
		7				4		
4	8			1				
3	6	9		7	2			

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

5	6	2	3	7	1	9	4	8
9	7	8	4	5	2	3	6	1
1	4	3	9	8	6	7	5	2
3	1	7	6	2	9	4	8	5
2	5	6	8	4	7	1	3	9
8	9	4	1	3	5	6	2	7
7	2	1	5	6	4	8	9	3
4	3	5	7	9	8	2	1	6
6	8	9	2	1	3	5	7	4

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You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, at metronews.ca/kiss.

Haileywailey, you are the most epic person i know. I don't even know what to say, so all i can say is, i love you. From the day u stole my meesh til now. I hope you see this and know how special you are. :)
YOUR ONE AND ONLY

Peaches, Missing you so very much. Not even sure if you read these...wish I could turn back the clock & make different choices. Sorry to have caused you pain. Please find it in your heart to call, even if to say how much you hate me. God, I miss you. **ME**

To my friends: You guys mean so much to me. You've helped me through a lot. We have our ups and downs but our friendship is still going strong. You have my back and if you need it you know i have yours.
YOU KNOW WHO

A look at the weather

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Min -9°	Min -19°	Min -3°
Max -9°	Max -5°	Max 7°

Andrew Schultz, Meteorologist
BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION
"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta". **WEEKDAYS 5:30AM**

Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 Your critics can complain all they want, but there's no stopping you from following your dream.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 If you stop worrying for a moment and analyze your financial situation, you'll realize it could be worse.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 A partner will say something that'll show you there's a lot about him or her you still don't understand.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Spread the load today — get others to help you. They will, if you ask them nicely.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 You don't lack confidence but common sense is just as important, so think carefully before you take a big risk.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Minor disagreements could easily get out of hand over the next 24 hours. Don't rise to the bait.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 You may be tempted to blame someone else when something goes wrong today. Instead, admit it's your fault.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Watch out that you don't waste money on trendy things you don't need today. Set your own trends.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Your energy levels are high. What is your number one desire? Aim for that and nothing else.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 If you're fearful, it won't be until the Sun moves into your sign in a fortnight that you'll feel better.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 You'll have to be blunt with people who are unaware that you don't want to be bothered with trivia.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. Whatever the upset or upheaval today, take it in stride. Don't let it faze you. **SALLY BROMPTON**

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JOHN RAOUX/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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